PALL MALL GAZETTE

An Evening Newspaper and Review.

No. 7429.—Vol. XLIX. *TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 8, 1889.* *Price One Penny.*

TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

DRURY LANE.
(Augustus Harris, Lessee and Manager.)
TO-DAY, at 1.30 and 7.30, THE BABES IN THE WOOD. Messrs. Harry Nicholls, Herbert Campbell, C. Lauri, jun., Stevens, Leno, Griffiths Bros., Andrews, Inch, Pleon, Henderson, Stanley, Dezano, and Harry Payne; Mesdames Florence Dysart, Duggan, Mayer, ÆNEA, Grey, Charteris, Deering, and Harriet Vernon. Box-office open daily from 10 to 6.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30 precisely, the new original Drama, by Mr. Haddon Chambers, entitled "CAPTAIN SWIFT." Mr. Tree, Mr. Macklin, Mr. Kemble, Mr. Fuller Mellish, Mr. Allan, Mr. Harwood, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Brookfield; Lady Monckton, Miss Rose Leclercq, Miss Cudmore, and Mrs. Tree. Preceded, at 7.50, by THE DUCHESS OF HAYSWATER AND CO. Doors open at 7.30. Box-office open daily, 10 till 5. MORNING PERFORMANCE SATURDAY, January 19, at 2.30.
SPECIAL MATINEES of THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR, TO-MORROW and EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING and (by special desire) on SATURDAY NEXT, January 12, at 2.30. Seats may now be booked.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Irving.)
MACBETH, TO-NIGHT, at 7.45. Overture 7.40. Macbeth, Mr. Henry Irving; Lady Macbeth, Miss Ellen Terry. Messrs. Alexander, Wenman, Tyars, Webster, Howe, Haviland, Harvey, Johnson, Kaynor, Outram, Lacy, Archer, &c.; Misses Marriott, Seaman, Desborough, Coleridge, Ivor, &c. Box-office (Mr. J. Hurst) open 10 to 5. Seats can also be booked by letter or telegram. Carriages 11.—LYCEUM.

TOOLE'S THEATRE.
THE DON.—RETURN and REAPPEARANCE of Mr. J. L. TOOLE. EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Merivale's successful Comedy, THE DON. Mr. J. L. TOOLE, supported by powerful company. Preceded, at 7.45, by DEAF AS A POST. Doors open at 7.15. Prices as usual. Box-office open at 11 to 6.30. MORNING PERFORMANCE of THE DON, EVERY SATURDAY, at 2. Doors open at 1.30. THE DON, 213th representation To-night.

SAVOY THEATRE.
(Proprietor and Manager, R. D'Oyly Carte.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, the New and Original Opera, in Two Acts, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, entitled THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD; or, THE MERRYMAN AND HIS MAID. Preceded at 7.20 by MRS. JARRAMIE'S GENIE. Doors open at 7. MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30. Doors open at 2. Box-office open continuously from 9 A.M. to 11 P.M.

ADELPHI THEATRE.
(A. and S. Gatti, Sole Proprietors and Managers.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.0, THE SILVER FALLS. Mr. William Terriss; Messrs. C. Cartwright, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shine, Royce Carleton, Hardley Turner, J. Carne, C. Eaton, James East, H. Russell; Mesdames Millward, O. Nethersole, G. Esmond, A. Dairolles, and Clara Jecks. At 7.15, Farce. MORNING PERFORMANCE SATURDAY NEXT, at 2.0.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.
(Mr. Thomas Thorne, Sole Lessee and Manager.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.30, JOSEPH'S SWEETHEART. 253rd Time. Preceded at 7.30 by THE POET. Mr. Thomas Thorne; Messrs. William Rignold, Fred Thorne, Cyril Maude, J. S. Blythe, Scott Buist, F. Grove, Frank Gillmore, and Mr. H. B. Conway; Mesdames Gladys Homfrey, Annie Irish, M. A. Giffard, Banister, B. Harrison, Arnold, R. McNeill, Bowman, Adlercron, Maunder, and Winifred Emery.

GAIETY THEATRE.
THIS EVENING, at 7.30, FIRST MATE. At 8.30, FAUST UP TO DATE. Miss Florence St. John, Miss Violet Cameron, Miss Marie Illington, Miss Fenny Robina, Miss Jenny M'Nulty, Miss Lillian Price, Miss M. Jones, Miss F. Levey, Miss A. Young, Miss E. Greville, Miss M. Love; Mr. E. J. Lonnen, Mr. H. Parker, Mr. Charles Ross, Mr. E. Haslem, and Mr. George Stone.

TERRY'S THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Edward Terry.)
The safest Theatre in London, constructed entirely with concrete and iron absolutely fireproof, lighted throughout with electricity.
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, SWEET LAVENDER, by A. W. Pinero. 237th Time. Messrs. Edward Terry, Alfred Bishop, Brandon Thomas, F. Kerr, H. Reeves Smith, Sant Matthews, Prince Miller; Mesdames M. A. Victor, Carlotta Addison, Maude Millett, and Blanche Horlock. Doors open at 8. Carriages 11. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30. Box-office open from 10 to 5. Telephone 2,702.—Acting Manager, Mr. H. T. Brickwell.)

GLOBE THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Richard Mansfield.)
PRINCE KARL.—TO-NIGHT, at 8.45, PRINCE KARL. Mr. RICHARD MANSFIELD, Mr. Burrows, Mr. Crompton, Mr. Weedon Grossmith, Mr. Frankau, Mr. Vivian, &c.; Madame Carlotta Leclercq, Miss May Whitty, Miss Glidden, and Miss Beatrice Cameron. Preceded, at 8, by EDITHA'S BURGLAR. Miss Nelly Bowman, Mr. D. H. Harkins, and Mr. Lionel Brough. Box-office (Mr. Innes) open daily 10 to 5. Doors open 7.30.

STRAND THEATRE.
(Under the management of Mr. C. H. Hawtrey.)
(By arrangement with Mr. Willie Edouin.)
TO-NIGHT will be performed, a Burlesque in Three Acts, entitled ATALANTA, at 9 o'clock. Mr. George Capel, Mr. Tom Squire, Mr. Fleming Norton, Mr. W. F. Hawtrey, and Mr. Willie Warde; Miss Muriel Aubrey, Miss Carlotta Zerbini, Misses S. and G. Baring, and Miss Marie Linden. Preceded, at 8.10, by A HIGHLAND LEGACY, by Mr. Brandon Thomas. Box-office open from Ten to Five.

COURT THEATRE.
(Proprietors, Mrs. John Wood and Mr. Arthur Chudleigh.)
(Under the management of Mrs. John Wood.)
EVERY EVENING, at 9.0 (by arrangement with Mr. John Hare), LES SURPRISES DU DIVORCE, adapted by Sydney Grundy, and entitled MAMMA. 96th Performance. Preceded at 8 by BOX AND COX. Doors open 7.45. Box-office open 10 to 10. Telephone 3,031. EVERY AFTERNOON, at 2.30, LITTLE GOODY TWO SHOES.

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE, Shaftesbury Avenue
(Proprietor, Mr. John Lancaster.)
THIS EVENING, at 7.45, A HUSBAND IN CLOVER. At 8.15, THE LADY OF LYONS. Miss Wallis, Mesdames Robertha Erskine, H. Leigh, Annie Rose; Messrs. Arthur Stirling, Bassett Roe, Allen Thomas, Matthew Brodie, Charles Arnold, Herberte Basing, George Seldon, &c., and Forbes Robertson.

LYRIC THEATRE.
(Sole Proprietor and Manager, Henry J. Leslie.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, DOROTHY. 838th Performance. Mesdames Effie Chapuy, Florence Perry, H. Coveney, F. Neville, and Amy Augarde; Messrs. Ben Davies, Furneaux Cook, Arthur Williams, J. Le Hay, S. King, and C. Hayden Coffin. At 7.30, WARRANTED BURGLAR PROOF. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30.

AVENUE THEATRE.
(Manager, Mr. H. Watkin.)
TO-NIGHT at 8.15, NADGY. Christmas Edition of Chassaigne and Murray's New Comic Opera. New Songs, New Dances, New Business. Mdlle. Vanoni, Mr. Arthur Roberts, and powerful company. Conducted by Mr. John Crook. Preceded at 7.30 by QUITS. Doors open at 7.15; Box-office open daily from 10 to 5 o'clock. Telephone 3,541. MORNING PERFORMANCE TO-MORROW, and EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY, at 2 o'clock. Children half price. —R. D'Albertson, Acting Manager.

JODRELL THEATRE, Great Queen-street, Long-acre, W.C.
Sole Lessee ..... Mrs. Churchill Jodrell.
Manager ..... Colonel H. J. Sargent.
TO-NIGHT at 8.30, GREAT SUCCESS of PATTI ROSA, American Comedienne, in a New Play, entitled BOB. Box-office open daily 10 to 5.

AN ELECTION IN THE FOG.

"The only thing common to all London," said Lord Rosebery yesterday in his excellent speech as a County Council candidate, "is the fog." Meteorologically the remark was more amusing than accurate; for nothing is more curious about London fogs than their partial and shifting character. But municipally speaking, Lord Rosebery was perfectly correct. The only thing common to all London, with regard to the forthcoming County Council election, is a fogginess as to its powers and possibilities, its capacities and its capabilities. There is something very comic in the contrast between the far-reaching and attractive programmes issued by many of the candidates, and the complete indifference thereto displayed by most of the electors. Both candidates and electors are wrong. The candidates who make so much of the contest are assuming more powers than will belong to the Council. The electors, who make so little of it, are ignoring the very large and important rôle which the Council must necessarily play. In fact there is a general fog all round, and Lord Rosebery did excellent service by endeavouring to dispel it.

Lord Rosebery's text was the same that we adopted in these columns last Saturday: namely, "Men before measures;" and from whichever side the question is approached, the wisdom of this maxim becomes apparent. Of course, as we said before, if other qualifications are equal, a Radical candidate should be preferred to a Tory; but if in any constituency a Tory of high character and marked ability is pitted against a candidate whose only recommendation is the Radicalism of his opinions, then it would be the sheerest pedantry of politics not to vote for the Tory. In Parliamentary elections, the case is exactly reversed. Parliament is more and more reverting to its original function of a Court of Registration. Political issues are threshed out nowadays on the platform and in the press; and what we want to come to in the House of Commons is the counting of heads. In political contests, therefore, the candidates' opinions are everything; and the elector who votes for a man on the other side because he is a good fellow is a fool for his pains. But in this County Council election every condition is reversed. Its functions are purely administrative. It has nothing whatever to do with the issues which divide political parties. The elector, therefore, who votes for a man simply because he is "sound" on such issues is obviously either a bigot or a simpleton. The main function of the County Council will be to take over the business of the Metropolitan Board of Works, and to do it (if it can) without corruption or incompetence. How will it help towards this end to get together a body of men with certain views on Women Suffrage, or the Land Question, or Home Rule for Ireland? We are afraid that the soundest views on Women's Suffrage do not ensure any knowledge of Thames sewage, that the most Radical views on ground rents will not necessarily prevent fires in theatres, and that the most eloquent advocacy of Home Rule may not conduce to any cheapening in the supply of water and gas. On the contrary the presence on the Council of any considerable number of professors of political nostrums will certainly interfere with its efficiency in these humbler but essential matters. We are by no means sure that the Council is not too small to start with, in view of its multifarious duties, of the number of Committees necessary, and of the desirability of having these Committees fairly large. But if half of the Council is to be filled with members who go there not to mind its own business, but to meddle with other people's, then one of two things will infallibly happen. Either the Council will become choked and blocked, or the real business of it will pass into the hands of a small inner circle. Either alternative is equally unpleasant to us as Radical politicians.

But we advocate "men before measures," not only on account of what the Council will *not* have to do, but also on account of what it will have to do. Never mind about "measures," we say, because measures do not concern the Council. But we add, look out for good men, because what does concern the Council all depends on the men who sit there. There is a letter from Earl Compton in another column which throws a flood of light on this subject. The new London rate will, he tells us, certainly be "4½*d.* more than the rate of the moribund Board of Works." It will probably be an unpleasant "eye-opener" to many people to hear that the first, if not the only, effect of Mr. Ritchie's Revolution in London will be to run up the rates in double quick time. Nevertheless, we believe Lord Compton's calculations are perfectly accurate; and, if so, what a conclusive argument they afford in favour of the absolute necessity of leavening the Council with the leaven of integrity and character! The Board of Works—with a lower rate and a smaller expenditure than its successor will have—has died, amidst deserved opprobrium, because it had a few shady sheep amongst its members, and a couple or so of very black ones amongst its officers. If the County Council, with its larger powers and freer expenditure, is to avoid a like end, it must begin with being above suspicion. And this is why at all costs to political prejudice the electors should postpone measures to men, and vote not for "questions" so much as for character.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IN THE SOUDAN.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Cairo, *Dec.* 26.

Christmas at Cairo is kept in blazing sunshine, with open doors and windows. The aspect of the perpetual circus of the streets is altered very little by the Christian festival, but the houses of the European population are gay with roses and palms, and the feast of Peace and Goodwill is the more heartily kept this year in celebration of the triumph of arms at Suakin. But, though this sounds like a contradiction in terms, there is more reason than peace-lovers at home might imagine that the contradiction is only in seeming. The outcry at home against the military party in Cairo has been somewhat too loud and too hasty to correspond to any actual condition of affairs, even though it may serve the excellent purpose of a warning in time.

The situation so far is briefly this. Since the destruction of Hicks Pasha's army, the authority of Egypt in the Soudan has been practically non-existent. The annihilation of that army was the Sedan of the Egypto-Soudanese struggle. Not only did the Egyptian force cease to exist: the forces of the Mahdi took their milliards in the form of stores and ammunition with which Hicks Pasha had been provided for a campaign of five years. A new situation was from that moment created. The bubble of Khedivial power stretching from the Mediterranean to the Equator had been pricked by the Mahdi's spears. In the place of its brilliant colours there was only a dull stain of blood upon the sand. Egypt had lost the Soudan. Leaving on one side all that may be said as to the bad government which was the original cause of the revolt, and the inherently impossible nature of a scheme which gave so vast a domination to so weak a Power, this was from the Egyptian point of view matter for deep regret. But it was a *fait accompli.* If this were fully recognized at home there would be no talk about our policy of scuttle. The Soudan was gone. To talk about remaining there was as though the French had continued to talk of going to Berlin after the surrender of Napoleon. It could no more have been held than they could have held the French fortresses upon the German frontier. To recover it meant an offensive campaign of a magnitude which has not yet been contemplated. To withdraw from the Soudan entirely was not so much a policy as a necessity. Gordon's mission and the campaign which followed it altered nothing in the position of affairs. The inevitable only took its course when Khartoum fell into the hands of the Mahdi. The siege of Khartoum in this campaign was as the siege of Paris in the other. Sooner or later the town had to fall. It cost valuable lives, which might perhaps have been saved if the advice of Gordon and Sir Evelyn Baring had been followed, and Zebehr sent up in time. But the Egyptian power in the Soudan was at the end of it just where it was at the beginning, and where it is now—that is to say, absolutely destroyed. All this you may say is ancient history. Yes; but it is contemporary history too, for the situation remains unchanged, and the A B C of the actual position is contained in the fact that all parties here are agreed upon this one point, that an attempt to reconquer the Soudan by force of arms would involve an African war, and only to be paralleled by the results in Europe of an attempt to recover the French provinces. But, given the same alphabet, the combinations to be made with it are endless. The military party, knowing of course perfectly well what an aggressive policy means, is anxious for war. Official opinion is also, however, as I am in a position to state on good authority, fully awake as to what must follow upon aggressive action, and there is no inclination in responsible quarters to encourage it. The position at Suakin had become such that it was absolutely

OUR KITH AND KIN.

In all the recent discussions concerning longevity, one of the most remarkable of living nonagenarians has apparently been overlooked. We refer to the Very Rev. Hussey Burgh Macartney, Anglican Dean of Melbourne, in Australia. Dean Macartney is not only remarkable as an active nonagenarian still working in ecclesiastical harness, but is still more notable as the last surviving connecting link with the Irish Parliament that was so shamefully suppressed at the beginning of the century.

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His father was Sir John Macartney, Bart., M.P., in the Irish House of Commons, and the son, the now venerable Dean of Melbourne, was born in Dublin on April 10, 1799—the year before the Irish Parliament was extinguished by bribery and corruption. Dean Macartney accompanied the first Bishop of Melbourne to that newly-created diocese forty years ago, and he has been an energetic worker there ever since.

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He could have been the second Bishop of Melbourne if he chose, but he declined the honour, and it was subsequently conferred on Dr. Moorhouse, now Bishop of Manchester. Notwithstanding his ninety years, Dean Macartney's health is as excellent, and his step as elastic, as those of many Melbournians who are forty years his junior.

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Sir Alfred Stephen, C.B., K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor of New South Wales, is another notable instance of colonial longevity. He dates from the second year of the century, and is, we believe, the sole surviving high-class officer of the Imperial *régime* in Australia—that is, the era before responsible government was conferred upon the colonists, when they were ruled direct from Downing-street. He was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn in November, 1823, and nine years later he was despatched by the Crown as Attorney-General to the Antipodes. He is in receipt of a large pension as ex-Chief Justice of New South Wales.

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We congratulate Printing House-square on a little windfall concerning which a modest silence has been preserved in the quarter that is most interested. The Grand Orange Lodge of Victoria has voted £50 "to assist the *Times* in its attempt to prove the charges against Mr. Parnell." Possibly it is this unfortunate phraseology that has prevented the *Times* from making any public acknowledgment of this seasonable gift. Most of its readers could scarcely refrain from making a comment somewhat similar to one we see in a colonial journal now before us: "Not to procure justice, you'll observe, but to squelch Parnell by hook or by crook."

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The question of the payment of members has been shelved for a time in New South Wales. When Sir Henry Parkes, the present Premier, formed his Cabinet he made the question an open one, and a few months ago Mr. Garrett, the Minister of Lands, introduced and carried a measure providing that the legislators of New South Wales should be paid, as in Victoria. Before the bill received the assent of the Governor, however, Mr. Garrett retired from the Ministry, and his successor being very hostile to it the bill is lost for the session.

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The land "boom" in Victoria has been greater than ever this year. In about nine months the sales amounted to £37,000,000. In Melbourne Mother Earth is fast multiplying in value. Twenty-two pounds per square foot has been an ordinary price in the city, while in the suburbs land which a year or so ago could have been bought for £50 to £100 an acre, now realizes ten times that sum. There are not wanting, however, prophets of the evils that will come out of rash speculation in land.

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With all this earth-hunger, too, the Melbourne land auctioneers apparently find it necessary to display considerable enterprise. The announcement of a recent sale was headed with the words, "Yeksihw dna Klim," which would, it was stated, greatly interest those who would take the trouble to attend. The mystery is easily solved by reading the letters backwards.

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Some of the M.P.'s of Queensland have thought it necessary to bring pressure upon the Government of the province for the protection of the aborigines in the backwoods. It was stated that they had been the victims of some unjustifiable raids on the part of white men. The authorities promised to consider the advisability of "reserving" certain lands for the aborigines—a somewhat questionable remedy.

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A company is being formed in Melbourne "for the importation of domestic servants." What possibilities of similar enterprise at home such an announcement suggests!

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Ten thousand shares at a halfpenny a share, and 3,108 at a farthing a share! This is the transaction which is before the Sydney courts. The shares are those of the Jonkin Silver Mining Company, and they were purchased of a stockbroker during lunch. The litigation ensued when the happy purchaser discovered, to his dismay, that on the shares which had cost him £25 there was a liability in the shape of "calls" of £6,000. It was stated in court that in another case 1,100 mining shares had been purchased for 2*s.*, while a less fortunate foreigner paid 2*s.* 6*d.* for 200. Such incidents as these throw a curious light on the speculative side of colonial life.

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Professor Pearson, the head of the Education Department in South Australia, is getting into trouble over his treatment of the female teachers. They complain that their salaries are in arrears, and that whereas they are entitled to receive four-fifths of the pay of the male teachers, their salaries amount to only two-thirds. The Minister, pleading the poverty of the colony, offered a composition in respect to the arrears, and promised regular payment in future.

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New Zealand now claims to have the champion cataract of the world. The newly-discovered Sutherland Falls on the west coast of that colony have been officially surveyed and found to be 1,904 ft. in height.

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A curious question has arisen in Canada as to the ethics of legal advocacy. Mr. Blake, who recently visited England, has resigned his position as Leader of the Opposition, and resumed his practice as a barrister. In the course of this practice it has fallen to his lot to appear in what is well known in the Dominion as the Manitoba Crossings Case, and in connection therewith he is charged by his Conservative opponents with advocating in the courts "a cause which by his eloquence in Parliament he taught us to regard as the cause of iniquity." The Liberal journals of course retort that Mr. Blake, the lawyer, is not responsible for the actions of Mr. Blake, the politician. Nevertheless, it would be difficult for lawyer-politicians to act upon this dictum in England.

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The Church and the masses appears to be a burning question in Canada as well as at home. It has recently been exhaustively discussed by a conference of the Toronto Presbytery. One conclusion, with which there seemed to be general agreement, was put by one speaker as follows:—"Much of the irreligion menacing our civilization might have been rendered impossible by wise and loving assistance in the time of need to the widow, the orphan, and the invalid, and much of the present irreligion would be speedily dissipated under a warm Christian atmosphere. Freely the Church has received, until her very blessings have exposed her to misrepresentation, and surely she should freely give."

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The loyalty of Kimberley has received what looks like a silly rebuff. An offer of the inhabitants to form a Highland volunteer corps there has been peremptorily declined by the authorities—for reasons best known to themselves.

necessary to drive back the dervishes, and by showing a strong hand to give opportunity to the tribes wavering in the neighbourhood to rally to the friendly authority at Suakin. This has been done. To take the next step, and to advance to Tokar, Tamai, and Handoub, would be, it is true, to secure the approaches to Suakin and prevent the return of the dervishes, but it would also be the first step in a military march across Africa which may lead us Heaven alone knows where. To Khartoum, say some: to the Equatorial Provinces, say others. Why not, when we once begin, to Zanzibar itself? The search for the perfectly satisfactory military frontier which shall draw the line between the forces of civilization on the one side, and the weakness of savage tribes upon the other, is as hopeless as the search for the pot of gold under the rainbow. Place it where you will, you will still have to do occasionally to troublesome neighbours what Lord Charles Beresford recommends in the present case of the dervishes—you must beat them off, and when they come back you must beat them off again. Indian experience has taught us that it is better to sit still and do this close to our own base of supplies than to advance into unknown wilds and do it there. The difficulty in the way of reopening peaceful commercial negotiations with the tribes until the dervishes are completely cleared out is that trade with them means the accumulation of supplies from the interior in the immediate vicinity of Suakin. To encourage the tribes to bring supplies while the dervishes still surround the town is simply to furnish transport and commissariat to the enemy's forces.

These reasons combined contain, I believe, a fair explanation of the present English attitude here. There is an honesty which commands some respect in the frank official admission that there is for the moment nothing to be done. To go forward involves a military policy which the advisers of the Government repudiate in the strongest terms as useless, impossible, and out of the question. To enter into the commercial relations desired by Mr. Fox, Mr. Wylde, and others with the tribes on the Red Sea coast is impossible while the dervishes remain in the neighbourhood of Suakin. It is on account of the harm which might result from even a trifling indiscretion while affairs are in this delicately balanced position that Mr. Wylde has been temporarily forbidden to return. I may say in passing that I have not seen Colonel Kitchener, but that the account given by Mr. Wylde of his method of conducting affairs with the tribes in the neighbourhood of Suakin is absolutely and flatly denied for him at high quarters here. What is considered at present to be of first necessity is to drive back the dervishes. When that has been done—and we now hope that it has been done—the ground has been cleared for the solution of the really interesting question whether the district surrounding Suakin and the peacefully disposed tribes in its neighbourhood can be negotiated with as a separate State, or whether they form, in spite of their comparative friendliness, an intrinsic part of the empire of the Mahdi, only to be dealt with from Khartoum. This has to be made clear before any of the schemes so readily suggested can be tried, and when the facts with regard to it are known we shall have matter upon which to base further, and possibly quite fresh, conclusions. At present all schemes are necessarily more or less empirical because we don't know; we only guess at the foundation on which they are supposed to stand. It is a subject upon which native opinion is perhaps more valuable than any other, and I hope to be able to give the Egyptian point of view in my next letter. Whether the interests to be considered at Suakin are English or Egyptian, or both, it is evident that the policy of offering a blank page to the fingers of chance cannot long be continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ADMIRAL MAXSE ON ENGLAND'S GREATNESS.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—England's greatness is an undeniable fact, but Admiral Maxse assumes that most citizens approve of this greatness, of the means by which it has been attained, and of its maintenance by similar means. Surely the "heroic efforts and sacrifices of generations of Englishmen" is an unjustifiable euphemism for the policy—or rather the occurrences and adventures—by which the British Empire was built up. The "beneficent power of England" is an idea which has as much foundation as that every Englishman can lick a dozen Frenchmen, or that the British soldier never was beaten. For instance, to take one case, what has this beneficence done in Australia? De Quatrefages, a scientific writer without political bias, says truly in "The Human Species," "In no part of the globe has the white shown himself so merciless towards inferior races; nowhere has he so audaciously calumniated those whom he has plundered and exterminated." English policy in Ireland has differed only in degree from her action in Australia, and has only been varied by the occasional intervention of such men as Mr. Morley. Are the difficulties and dangers which statesmen have to confront always to be met by brute force regardless of their causes and of the canons of morality? The happiness of the people is of far more importance to the masses than Imperial greatness, and the pursuit of the latter clashes with that of the former. How little has been done in England compared, say, with France or the United States during the last ninety years to promote the happiness and well-being of the masses! A policy whose principle is British interests may lead to greatness in Admiral Maxse's sense, but not to the political contentment and domestic happiness which I trust are the first objects not only of Mr. Morley, but of the mass of voters who will back his principles rather than those of extermination, plunder, and calumny.—Your obedient servant,

AN IRISHMAN.

January 6.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

We print elsewhere a remarkable telegram from Vienna, according to which the Tzar, true to his own conception of his duty as peacekeeper of Europe, has given assurances to Austria-Hungary of his desire to arrive at a satisfactory *modus vivendi* with Francis Joseph. Of that there can be no doubt, nor is there any mystery as to the terms on which that *modus vivendi* can be arrived at. If Austria will keep her hands off the Balkan, Russia will do the same. These overtures, if correctly reported, are very important, coinciding as they do with the first rally of Europe against the Bismarckian domination. But we give the rumour with all reserve.

There is something intensely comical about the wrigglings of the Reptile Press under the unexpected storm of indignation that has burst upon it from all quarters—especially in Austria-Hungary. The latest desperate expedient of the discomfited libellers is to pick up an erroneous suggestion made by us in our charitable endeavour to imagine some semblance of a foundation in fact for their astounding calumny. This suggestion was that Sir Robert Morier had sent some important news to his own Government, and that it had leaked out through some official in the Foreign Office. Sir Robert Morier contradicted this immediately by a telegram from St. Petersburg, published in the *Times* of December 28. No information could have leaked out, he said, because he sent none, either in letter, despatch, or telegram, and he sent none because he had none to send.

Notwithstanding this emphatic and conclusive contradiction, the Berlin *Post* endeavours to shift the charge of treason from Sir Robert Morier to some unknown official in the Foreign Office, and the *Kölnische* seeks to bolster it up by saying that the Empress Eugénie sent on the telegram from Paris saying that it came from an English diplomatist named Morier. All these are mere refuges of lies. Sir Robert sent no information because he had none. *Ex nihilo nihil fit.* But it may be worth while for Lord Salisbury to finally crush the serpent's head by assuring Prince Bismarck that the latest calumny of the Reptile Press Bureau against the English Foreign Office is as baseless as that which preceded it.

Sir John Pender's chief card at Govan appears to be a promise that if he is elected he will bring business to the Clyde. Even the Government, it seems, is not above a little bribery of this superior kind, and last night Mr. Stuart-Wortley—speaking in Lord Salisbury's name—promised that if the electors of Govan would return Sir John Pender the Government would lay down more ships on the Clyde. It is to be hoped that Mr. Wortley was not speaking with so much authority as he assumed; for anything more discreditable than such a use of the navy as a method of political corruption cannot be conceived. Moreover, if any promising of material benefits is considered essential to securing the seat, surely Sir John Pender might be left to do it himself. If the former member for the disfranchised borough of Totnes cannot do the trick, nobody else is likely to be able to do it for him.

A correspondent writes:—"In its leading article on the year's litigation yesterday, the *Times* advocates 'an addition to the bench of the division' as the best means of coping with the block in the Common Law courts. The suggestion is an obvious one enough, and when the majority of the judges are on circuit it could, if given effect to, prove advantageous *pro tanto*. But where would the new judge, or judges, sit when the circuits were not in progress? The beautiful pile of buildings for the design of which the country has to thank the late Mr. Street has not the accommodation. When all the judges are sitting every court is tenanted, and, as a new judge would be useless without a court to sit in, the *Times* suggestion is impracticable unless we build more courts. And where is this to be done?"

The truth is, as we have so often pointed out, that all that is really necessary is to reform the circuit muddle. Let the judges be relieved from trying the petty cases which make up three-fourths of their provincial cause-lists, and their absence from town would be shortened by at least one half its length. That would probably be all that is needful. If it was not it would then be time to try others of the more costly and less practicable expedients which have been so freely suggested.

Quite the most entertaining description of State polity that has come to hand from Africa, that land of marvels, is the account given by Mr. F. S. Arndt of a Central African chief whom he visited named Msidi. This potentate is very much married indeed, having no fewer than 500 wives. But with Msidi, like our Henry the Eighth, excessive matrimony is really due to exigencies of State. Says Mr. Arndt:—

These 500 wives are really Msidi's officers of State. He has divided his great empire into many sections, each of which is ruled by a minor chief, who receives from him an Omande shell as a sign of office; and each of these is represented at Court by one of Msidi's wives, by whom all tribute is collected, and all visitors to the capital are entertained. By this simple but original plan of his own, Msidi, without books or secretaries, rules the whole country most effectively, and his name is everywhere feared.

Mr. Goldwin Smith will marvel that Msidi and his women hold their own against the masculine nations in the midst of whom they dwell, but the fact, it seems, is as Mr. Arndt states it.

Since the appointment of Lord Onslow to the Governorship of New Zealand was announced, a movement has been on foot to give his lordship some recognition of the good feeling which exists between him and the people of Guildford. It has at length been decided to hold a public farewell banquet at the commencement, as the Earl of Onslow leaves England on the 20th of the month. Lord Onslow has recently presented the town of Guildford with a site for a public recreation ground, and in various other ways gained the respect of the town. He served as high steward of Guildford during the past year.

Many stories have been told of the lavish affection displayed by eccentric and warp-minded individuals towards their pets, dogs and cats coming in for the greatest share of good things in this direction. The foreign pictures of dogs sitting at table with napkins before their breasts are warranted by the fact that Maximilian of Bavaria always had upwards of a dozen dogs in his apartments, half a dozen of which used to sit at dinner with him, each provided with a napkin under his chin. If during that time they did not venture to help themselves, they received as rewards gold and silver medals. How far they felt compensated by these medals for their uncomfortable position is not stated, but we should have thought a dainty tit-bit would have been more in their line.

The late Mdme. Ledru-Rollin, whose will, made in 1884, has recently been made public, was an Irish lady, a Miss Harriet Sharpe. It was this marriage that caused Ledru-Rollin to visit Ireland during the summer of O'Connell's monster meetings. At the historic assemblage at Tara, at which he was present, he was welcomed by the enthusiastic multitude as a delegate from the Republicans of France to the Irish Republic. England, although posing as the friend of down-trodden peoples, was then, as now, the oppressor of Ireland, and though quick to perceive the mote in the eye of other nationalities, was oblivious to the Irish beam in her own, and is only just becoming alive to the diversity between her professions and practice.

Many of the present generation will hardly recognize the name of Ledru-Rollin. He was a French lawyer, who in his early days often defended those charged with offences against the Government. A powerful orator, he took a chief part in the revolution that dethroned Louis Philippe, and was Minister of the Interior in the Provisional Government which followed. He was third on the poll at the election of the President of the Republic to the successful Louis Napoleon, and being implicated afterwards in an attempt to effect the Prince-President's overthrow, he fled in 1850 to England, where he lived in exile with his illustrious compatriots Louis Blanc and Victor Schœlcher. Ledru-Rollin at that time wrote a book on "The Decadence of England," a rather ungrateful proceeding to the country whose shelter he enjoyed. At the conclusion of the Crimean War Mazzini, Kossuth, and Ledru-Rollin issued a Republican manifesto.

Mdme. Ledru-Rollin, in the will referred to, desired that the residue of her property should be devoted to the establishment of a free lay primary school for boys and girls in Paris, under the superintendence of four deputies, whose views were most in harmony with those of her late husband. Her friend, M. Maillard, is one of them. Failing the acceptance of this bequest by the city of Paris, the money is to go to found a similar school in St. John's-wood, London, where her husband lived in the days of his expatriation. A marble bust of Ledru-Rollin, by Garraud, is bequeathed, to be placed in the principal room of the new school.

Mr. Joseph James Stansfeld, the Reform candidate for one of the Kensington divisions in the impending County Council, is the only son of that staunch Home Ruler and Gladstonian, the Right Hon. James Stansfeld Young Mr. Stansfeld bears a remarkable likeness to his distinguished father, and if elected will bring approved business capacity to the management of local affairs, being head of the firm of Stansfeld and Co., the Swan Brewery, Walham Green. "I saw the junior Mr. Stansfeld, the other day," writes a correspondent. "I had not seen him previously for over a quarter of a century, when he was a little boy in a velvet suit seated in the front seats in St. James's Hall, the occasion being a lecture on Rome and Venice, given by Mdme. Jessie Meriton White Mario, at which his father took the chair. He has not unnaturally altered during that period, and possesses in a noticeable degree his father's contemplative look."

"CHIPPING AND TIPPING."

A BURNING QUESTION IN THE 'BUS TRADE.

FOR some time past the 'bus trade has been the subject of a growing agitation. Fierce altercations have been witnessed in "the yards" and at the stopping places on the different routes, and on one occasion the contentions of the 'busmen led to blows and an appearance at the Dalston police-court. The great public who daily ride in the vehicles are for the most part ignorant of the strife and its cause, but it was as one of the public, riding on the box-seat of a North London "Favourite," that a representative was treated to some interesting revelations on the subject.

A MANIFESTO TO THE MEN.

The driver, a weather-beaten, but intelligent, old Jehu, first put into my hands (writes a correspondent), with a look of indignation, a copy of the following document, which, it appears, has forced matters to a crisis:—

London General Omnibus Company (Limited). Caution to conductors, drivers, and others. Notwithstanding the plain instructions given to conductors on the pay bills and in the regulation book that they "are forbidden, on pain of instant dismissal, to pay any fees, gratuities, or moneys of any kind to drivers, horsekeepers, or any other persons in the service of the company, or to have any money transactions whatever with any except the collecting and pay clerks, but he must pay into the company the whole amount of the fares taken throughout the day without any deduction whatever; any deviation from this regulation will constitute a fraud, and be treated as such according to law," very many are known to be in the habit of giving money to the drivers, horsekeepers, washers, and others out of the earnings of the omnibuses, and of falsifying their accounts to cover the theft. When charged with this dishonesty, it is often asserted by conductors, notwithstanding the plain warning given, that they are informed by their fellows that "it is an established custom." I desire therefore to make it clearly understood that the printed instruction admits of no such interpretation, and that any money given by the conductor out of the amount collected by him for fares is *theft*, and the receiver is an accomplice, and equally guilty. I regret having to speak so plainly, but the system has grown to such an extent that it requires to be severely dealt with. I am aware that there are some men in the service who honourably decline to give or accept such money, and I commend them for their principles, and the officers of the company will give them all possible support.—By order, A. G. CHURCH, Managing Director.

"Well, now, what do you think of that?" my driver asked me when I had finished reading the paper.

"A very straight warning, at any rate," I replied. "It puts the case for the company pretty strongly too. What is to be said on the other side?"

"A very great deal," was the laconic answer.

TO CHIP OR NOT TO CHIP.

The old man then relapsed into silence for a minute or two, as if conjuring in his brain the pleas by which the men could be vindicated. Suddenly he burst into speech, voluble and animated:—

"Why, sir, it's impossible for me to do without 'money from behind.' It's all very well to say that you musn't 'tip,' but how should I get on if I didn't? If we don't 'tip' the horsekeepers their 1*s.* 3*d.* or 1*s.* 4*d.* a day we should never see the sight of a decent animal, and we should get called over the coals for ill-using our horses. The washers and the wheelers will send over dirty vehicles with creaking wheels that frighten all passengers away unless they get a few pence every day from each 'bus. Then we have to give something to the timekeepers at the end of each journey, unless we want to get reported. That sentence in the paper about the officers is mere bunkum—mere bunkum, sir."

"How are these men paid?"

"Ah, that's where the rub is. I don't say as I can blame them making what they can. If the company wants to prevent them doing it they should pay them better. You see, sir, the horsekeepers get only a guinea a week, and the washers, who are hard at it all night, only twenty-three shillings. The wheelers are paid by the contractors, and them I don't know anything about. The timekeepers at the starting places do worse—they get scarcely anything—but then they are mostly very old drivers."

"Of course you and the conductor have a share?" I ventured to inquire.

"Well, me and my mate always like to pay our expenses."

"Your expenses?"

"The money we spend on the road for food and drinks. We have to work sixteen hours a day, and it's hard lines if the company can't afford us a little comfort."

"What has been the effect of the manifesto, so far?"

"A number of the North London conductors met and decided they wouldn't give us drivers anything. So many of the old drivers have left, and the company has put on a lot of green 'uns, who don't know how to hold a rein. But of course the conductors are still 'chipping,' and are having a fine old time of it all to themselves. Why, sir, the other day one of them went on the spree and spent two pounds ten straight off."

WHY NOT PAYMENT BY RESULTS?

"Well, what do you think should be done?"

"It's rather a difficult question, sir. I daresay people wonder why the 'bus companies don't have punches like the trams. Well, between you and me, there can still be a lot of 'chipping' even with the punches, by giving old tickets to outside passengers on dark nights. But the great thing is this, that among 'buses there is great competition, whereas as a rule the trams have it all to themselves. If there were no 'chipping,' what encouragement would there be to look after passengers? Why, sir, with the heap of 'buses that there is in the Strand I might drive from Chancery-lane to Charing-cross without taking up a single passenger, whereas by looking out and shouting for them we might get half a dozen."

"I have seen it suggested that the company should let their vehicles on hire in the same way that cabowners do. What do you say to that?"

"I hardly see how it would work. The company would never hear of it; they would lose a great deal of their control over the vehicles. Besides, the conductor and driver might not always trust one another enough to go into partnership together. No, my favourite idea is a commission. Why shouldn't the company pay us certain wages and then a commission on all the fares? The company would be the gainers, while we should have a reason, open and aboveboard, for doing the best we could. There's nothing like payment by results, in my opinion."

A ROUMANIAN JEW ORDAINED.

Among the deacons ordained by the Bishop of Rochester on St. Thomas's Day was the Rev. Paulus Ashkenazie, formerly a Roumanian Jew, who on his conversion to Christianity was subjected to cruel persecutions, his wife being among his bitterest opponents, and declining to live with him. With much difficulty he made his escape, and eventually studied at the London College of Divinity. He has been licensed to the curacy of St. Luke's, Deptford.

DO AUTHORS FEEL

By a Minor Novelist.

The perusal of Mr. William Archer's "Masks or Faces?" reviewed in Monday's the *P. M. G.*, has suggested to the mind of a humble reader the analogous question, more than once touched upon by various autobiographers, Does the author feel, or ought he to feel, when creating pathetic or terrible situations? Mr. Howells, we all know (and nobody admires Mr. Howells more sincerely than I do), thinks he oughtn't: if you weep over your characters, he says, it shows, not the full flush of creative instinct, but that you are in want of change of air, or horse exercise, or something. Now, a question of this sort is best settled, as Mr. Archer settled his dramatic problem, by taking as far as possible the actual experience of the parties concerned. And this can only be got at from the men themselves; for psychological observation, unfortunately, must by its very nature be conducted at first hand, by introspection. At the risk, therefore, of seeming to trench too much upon that topic on which "all men are fluent and none agreeable," I venture to narrate my own experiences in this matter, as a single contribution to the philosophy of the subject. A man, after all, in such a case, speaks, not as himself, but as a member of a class: and if it be objected by too candid critics that he is only a very small author, he may answer with truth that since there are far more small authors knocking about loose than big ones, his evidence has therefore all the more general and typical value.

Well, I find as a matter of personal fact that the author while at work does strongly realize the horrors or terrors or miseries of his created situations, sometimes even to the actual pitch of undergoing to the utmost the physical manifestations of strong emotion. Let us not speak of tears, for to weep is unmanly, and over that we will draw the stolid veil of British respectability. But suppose the situation is one that calls forth fear or horror. In such conditions, I often find myself leaning back half exhausted in my study chair, wiping the cold sweat in beads from my brow, and gazing vacantly, open-mouthed, into blank space at the hideous picture I have mentally summoned up before me. I am not fond, myself, of ghastly stories: but the public, like Helen's Babies, asks to have them "very bluggy;" and every now and then an enterprising editor, knowing that I can be relied upon for the necessary goriness, requests me to be duly "bluggy" to order. On such occasions, I sometimes terrify myself so much as I write that I am glad when the time comes to go out to lunch with my wife and family, and leave that white and bloodstained corpse with its face upturned alone towards the study ceiling. I pant, and groan, and shiver, and palpitate. When my man is hanging for dear life to the girders of the railway bridge, I tremble with anxiety, and shake with suspense, so that my pen will hardly form the letters accurately. When my travellers are starving with hunger and thirst in the midst of Sahara, my tongue clings to the roof of my mouth, and I moisten my lips with difficulty in the intensity of my realization of their situation. Every outer expression of feeling I attribute to my puppets, actualizes itself automatically in my own person. On the other hand, I can say with pride, I never laugh at my own jokes, though I have sometimes smiled faintly when on the spur of the moment some neat repartee or some unexpected turn of thought suggests itself to me spontaneously from the lips of one of my own characters. Fear and suspense I feel most readily; pathos less well; the ridiculous only in a subdued fashion.

Does the public feel at all as I feel? Is it interested at all in proportion as I am interested? Alas, no: but yet I recognize this much: though the public has never admired my work by any means as it ought (*cela va sans dire*—else would I not still be compelled to sign myself a Minor Novelist), I observe that it gives the most approbation to those pieces over which I have shuddered or wept myself the most sincerely. When I work at a story against the grain, I observe that the critics and the world at large think even smaller beer than usual of my studied efforts. On the other hand, when I throw myself thoroughly into the situation, when I pause in my work and clench my nails hard, or clap my hand to my forehead, or start with amazement, or wipe the furtive tear from my eyes stealthily, I notice that the public as a matter of fact pays rather more attention to the novel or tale so produced than to the one distinctly pumped up to order. There are one or two of my little pieces that in their modest way have made a sort of hit—would it had been a hit of far more explosive energy;—and those little pieces are precisely the ones over which I have myself wept and trembled and perspired most copiously. My own belief is that in order to warm the public up to summer heat, you must make your own blood reach fully to boiling point: in order to freeze them down to 32 degrees Fah., you must sink yourself, to many degrees below the line of zero. For you, the author, have ample time to work yourself up as you write into the desired mood; you can gradually get up steam by thinking the scene vividly over as you go, and you can spur yourself on by violent and bodily emotional accompaniments—by grinding your teeth, for example, and knitting your brows, and clenching your fists, and simulating all the outer accompaniments of rage or despair—till you really hate your victim or share the righteous wrath of your injured innocent. The public, on the other hand, sits and reads at ease in its own arm-chair: it skims your book rapidly and carelessly: it follows with very languid attention: and it probably realizes the whole story at best about one quarter as much as you do. If only I could make others feel as acutely as I feel myself—why, there, I wouldn't be writing newspaper articles for anybody anywhere. This sort of emotion takes it out of one, of course: but it is the only way in which I, at least, can give reality and vividness to a scene of passion or of sustained excitement.

THE SLAUGHTER OF OUR SONGSTERS.

A Verdict of the Milliners.

What have the great millinery houses of the West-end—Alison, Asser, Brown, Clack, Colman, Elkias, Francis, Gautier, Isabel, Louise, Ludlow and Cockburn, Muriel, Pauline and Perrin—to say on the subject of the wholesale slaughter of wild birds for purposes of feminine decoration? It was one of our representatives who asked herself this question, and she proceeded immediately to provide the answer by means of a wareroom-to-wareroom visitation. Carefully advancing with notebook in hand she jotted down the freely expressed opinions of ten leading milliners, and as they were all of one mind (a single dissentient being excepted) she contented herself in the case of the remainder with drawing mental conclusions from the outside of their brightly displayed windows. The verdict pronounced so unanimously amounted to the following statements:—1. The plumage trade has steadily increased for the past five years, and last season it reached an unprecedented height. 2. As a rule the anti-bird-slaughter agitation is looked upon as a mere fashionable sentimentality by the modistes. 3. Several ladies in the "very upper classes" protest faintly against the appearance of a bird's head in their hats and bonnets, a few express objections to the use of wings and breasts; but the vast majority set aside any soft feelings they may have on the subject in deference to the imperious dictates of fashion.

Private Opinions.

The individual observations of the deposing milliners, male and female, were in many instances significant enough to bear repetition. Said one: "The ladies themselves don't object; it is their husbands who will not stand heads in their hats (!) They seldom notice the other parts." "I believe most of our customers think the bird remains alive and in good health when deprived of breast and wings—they make such fuss about the head, and the heads alone." "Even when a lady remonstrates she can easily be won over by the assurance that the hat or bonnet would not be half so becoming deprived of its feathered ornament, or by the assertion, 'We use none but poulterers' birds in this house—wild ducks, larks, pigeons; these, when dyed, supply all the wings and breasts we need.'" "If they object to the use of a home bird then the French market comes immediately to the rescue, and the purchase is satisfactorily effected." "Some ladies object only to large birds, because 'it looks so like slaughter to kill them,' and others only to small birds for exactly the same reason." "Humming birds (of which one house in the City has just imported twelve cases containing two thousand each) are not tolerated by many because they do not wear well, though 'such dear, pretty little things, and so tiny;' and they are patronized by many because they come from abroad, do not sing, and—strange to relate!—are 'such dear, pretty little things, and so tiny!'"

How Ladies are managed.

"Our customers are headstrong in some ways," remarked one milliner, sapiently, "but we can always manage to overrule their logic if we see they incline towards a bird." "That is not very complimentary to the fair sex," our representative ventured to remark. "How do you manage?"

"Well, our birds either come from abroad or they don't; they are either killed for food or destroyed as nuisances; their feathers are either bright naturally or dyed, and they are all sizes and all prices. If on no condition will a real bird be purchased, why then we have manufactured birds, the feathers of which, ladies never seem to think, must be supplied by genuine birds—the grebe, for instance. In fact, the whole agitation is humbug! Why not agitate against the use of furs? Why not raise the cry, 'Save the seal!' 'Save the sable!' and all the other young fur-yielding animals? They, too, are killed unnecessarily; for clothes equally warm can be readily manufactured. Fashion demands victims, and fashion will find victims until the crack of doom. Ospreys, which we get from the fish-hawk at ten guineas an ounce, will always be in demand for the Court headdresses of our fashionable aristocrats; aigrettes, too, supplied at a cheaper rate by the beautiful white heron. I acknowledge freely that there is something positively revolting in killing

Our own Song Birds,

and I never allow one into my shop. But I see them disguised in the colours of the rainbow everywhere, and you can buy them anywhere as foreign productions—Java sparrows, if you like. Go have a talk with the feather dressers and mounters up in Whitechapel, nine-tenths of them Germans or Jews, or both, and you will find that among the thousands of skins they are turning out there is a large proportion provided by our own warblers that have been snared by the savage sons of the soil. A little while ago I was up at the East-end, and I saw selling in the streets dozens of robin redbreasts caught no farther away than Clapham the previous Sunday."

Spare our Wild Birds!

Perhaps not one in a thousand of the inhabitants of London knows the pretty legend which traces the origin of robin's red throat to the great tragedy on Golgotha. But surely most people feel tenderly towards the friendly, coquetting little warbler who trills for us sweetly when other singers are silent. What an amount of coarse brutality then is stored up in the demand for its little slain body as an ornament! Not for the heads of our ladies of fashion—it would be too much *en évidence* there—but perched on sprays of frosted ivy and mistletoe for Christmas ball dresses, and on frames and inkstands for Christmas presents. Goldfinches, chaffinches, thrushes, and starlings are also popular; sea-swallows and gulls, driven to take shelter on our inhospitable shores, provide quantities of wings, the latter especially while grey was the fashionable colour. The worst of the slaughter is that when it takes place during the breeding season it means brighter colours and consequently more remunerative work. One man-milliner with whom our representative had a long talk said he had entered into communication with

The Wild Birds' Protection Association,

with the object of assisting it to the best of his ability. He determined to discontinue using small birds for millinery or decorative purposes, thinking that fashion should not be pandered to when it involved the depopulation of whole districts of their feathered inhabitants, and knowing that the game birds of the world, and birds like the ostrich, farmed and protected for the sake of their feathers, provided a wonderful variety of plumage. He therefore laid in a store of Impeian, Argus, and Japanese pheasants, Californian quails, black partridges, light guinea fowl, and crown pigeons, so that no want, as regards form and colour, should be left unsupplied. Native birds, other than game, were scrupulously avoided, and those only encouraged which provide recognized food for the table. Even the gay dwellers in tropical forests, the birds of South America, Africa, and the islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, were to offer no temptations, no matter how collectors might risk their lives in securing them or in entering into contracts with the savage inhabitants of the swamps and morasses for the purchase of the dried skins. The result, alas! of such praiseworthy action was that the business of this *marchand de modes* was seriously injured, and his humane efforts had to be abandoned. Even ladies whom he knew to belong to some of the bird protection societies came into his establishment and asked for hats and bonnets decorated with their little feathered "friends." Thus he was forced to give way; the tide of fashion was too strong against him, and the earnestness of those who entered into the agitation too much of a mockery.

An Appeal to Common Sense.

The wholesale destruction of songsters and useful birds at present going on around us is a disgrace to our boasted civilization which may well be laid at the door of those ladies who encourage it by buying bird-ornaments to decorate their heads or their bodies, or to adorn muffs, fans, screens, mirrors, and various fancy articles. Selborne societies of all kinds will rise and fall until Vanity ceases to play fast and loose with heart. Woman steps onward. Is it not high time for her to leave a folly behind which is also a cruelty?

SAVONAROLA.*

The latest edition of Professor Villari's celebrated Life of Savonarola has been appropriately dedicated to Mr. Gladstone, "champion of Italian freedom, master of Italian learning." Over a quarter of a century has elapsed since the work first appeared. During this period much light has been thrown on the famous friar's career and times, and the present edition has been so greatly altered and enlarged as to form almost a new book. The fresh documents that have been discovered and given to the world of late years have not, however, altered in the slightest the conception which Professor Villari had originally formed of Savonarola. The Professor holds now, as then, that the friar's historic grandeur consists in his having "dared to believe, amid general doubt, in having upheld against the scandals of the Borgia and the sceptical cynicism of the philosophers, the forgotten and derided rights of Christianity, liberty, and reason." In Mdme. Villari the author has found an able and sympathetic translator, who has succeeded in rendering the text into terse and vigorous English.

A good deal of controversy has at different times raged round the character and career of the monk of St. Mark's. Professor Villari, it is almost needless to say, takes a very favourable view of his hero, and it is one with which in the main most people will agree. When Savonarola appeared Church and State were alike corrupt. There was a boastful luxury in the high places of the land, but there was, too, a poverty and wretchedness which were appalling. The shameless profligacy of Lorenzo the Magnificent found a counterpart in the vile debaucheries of the Papal Court. The moral corruption which was so gross everywhere in Italy was especially so at Florence, and it stung the monk almost to madness. He thundered forth his denunciations against the sins of his time with unsparing fury. His utterances glowed with the fire of a genuine eloquence, and shook even the Vatican. Potentates and Pope alike protested, but did so in vain, and Savonarola, in daring to assert "the irresistible might of charity, of liberty, of justice, of faith, and of reason," showed a courage and a moral heroism which were unprecedented, and the full force of which we in these later days can hardly realize.

How the preacher gradually merged into the patriot Professor Villari fully tells. Indeed one of the most attractive features of the book is the successful historical grouping which it presents. When Lorenzo lay dying Savonarola demanded the restoration of liberty to the Florentines, but the profligate Prince passed away and gave no sign. Savonarola made the same demand when Charles VIII. of France invaded Naples, and Piero, Lorenzo's son, was expelled for betraying his people. As the virtual head of the new Government in Florence, the friar still insisted on righteousness in both ruler and ruled, and in the few years during which he was supreme in the city the power which he exerted over the people was marvellous. The fact, however, that Savonarola's moral and political influence was so short-lived is one of the most extraordinary in his history. The reaction from moral excitement and asceticism was rapid and complete. The people who had hung upon his words, and whose political liberties he had championed and inspired, in a very few years turned and rent him. The wretched "Ordeal" business, which Professor Villari justly condemns, no doubt hastened the crisis, but some of the extreme measures which Savonarola inculcated, such as the "Burning of the Vanities"—which, by the way, Professor Villari defends—had a good deal to do with it. The moral change which Savonarola brought about was too sudden to be permanent. He sowed in a sense the wind and reaped the whirlwind; and his faithfulness to his ideal ultimately cost him his life.

With those who claim Savonarola as a "Protestant" martyr Professor Villari has no sympathy. He holds that the friar was neither heretic nor unbeliever, but remained unswervingly faithful to the dogmas of his faith. The book contains a number of portraits and sketches, and is enriched with copious notes. Altogether Professor Villari has brought to bear on his labours rare scholarship, great catholicity of mind, and a fine sense of historical perspective. The result is not only a masterly portrait of Savonarola, but a graphic and picturesque delineation of a very remarkable period of Italian history. No more interesting book has been issued during the present season.

* "Life and Times of Girolamo Savonarola." By Professor Pasquale Villari. Translated by Linda Villari. With portraits and illustrations. Two vols. (Fisher Unwin.)

"TOILERS OF BABYLON."*

This is in one particular a most original story. It is the only story in the recollection of the oldest novel reader in which the hero obviously and admittedly suffers from softening of the brain. He has a mysterious accident towards the middle of the second volume, after which, as his fond wife explains to society at large, it is necessary to be very "gentle" with him. But even at what Mr. Farjeon would call the commencement of the story, during their first conversation, we are told that "she did not understand the drift of all he said, nor, indeed, did he himself, nor was he aware that his speech was of a wandering nature." Under such distressing circumstances it is of course unavoidable that the conversations of the lovers should be more than usually inane. Mrs. Manners herself, though she is represented as a practical and hard-headed young lady, never displays a grasp of her subject which is at all to compare to Mrs. Micawber's; and on one occasion, during a long conversation with her husband, it is recorded, so expressly as (we fear) to imply an exception, that she spoke with "a slight contraction of her eyelids, denoting that she was thinking of what she was saying." But, apart from these little peculiarities, there is altogether too much love-making in the first part of the book. The hero and heroine are privately married before the story opens; but they carry on their courtship in public afterwards. They bill and coo, they kiss one another's wedding-rings, and stroke one another's hair, until the embarrassed reader really feels himself in the position of *Punch's* traveller, who, shut up in a railway carriage with a honeymooning couple, unwillingly overhears the tender murmur, "Oo's plump ickle partridge is 'oo?" "Oo's—ubbie."

The last part of the book is devoted to the unmasking of a rather stagey villain—Mark Inglefield by name—and to the inevitable interlude of "slumming," without which no story of modern life would, we imagine, be considered complete. The particular Toilers of Babylon here depicted get their living after a somewhat sketchy fashion; and Mrs. Manners not only supports herself, but maintains her afflicted husband, "by needlework," with an ease which the genuine article, with her "18*d.* the dozen shirts and find your own cotton," would greatly envy. We cannot say that Mr. Farjeon has put together at all a satisfactory story, and we would implore him to be more careful in the use of the English language—for instance, not to speak of "riding" in a four-wheeler, and to avoid suggesting such uncomfortable ideas as are implied by the mention of a "smoking tea-kettle."

* "Toilers of Babylon." By B. L. Farjeon. Three vols. (Ward and Downey.)

TO-DAYS NEW BOOKS.

(Publishers would greatly oblige by stating the prices of books. Any notices under this head do not preclude further review, should such seem to be necessary.)

Anon. "Perfect Peace." (Wells Gardner, Darton, and Co.)
[The writer describes the various storms which have from time to time burst upon Orthodoxy, but through all of which his faith has remained unshaken. The talisman of his perfect peace he expresses in two words: "*looking upwards*." Pp. 134, cloth. Price not stated.]

Bleau, S. B., M.A. "The City of Faith." (Elliot Stock.)
[Notes and gleanings in religious inquiry, representing a course of thought which has helped the writer to a firm basis for belief. Pp. 160, cloth. No price stated.]

Clarke, Thomas Grieve. "Christianity East and West." (Hodder and Stoughton.)
["An Ecclesiastical Pilgrimage," in which the author has employed a tour through Europe as a thread whereon to hang descriptions of the churches of Christ as far east as Jerusalem. Pp. 653, cloth. Price 10*s.* 6*d.*]

Lee, Margaret. "Faithful and Unfaithful." (Macmillan and Co.)
[A novel in one volume. Price 3*s.* 6*d.*]

Lytton, the Right Hon. Lord. "The Parisians." Vol. II. (Routledge.)
[The new volume of the Pocket Edition of Lord Lytton's works. Pp. 295, paper covers. Price 1*s.*]

Rickaby, John, S. J. "The First Principles of Knowledge." (Longmans, Green and Co.)
[A "Manual of Catholic Doctrine," dealing with the nature and special treatment of Certitude. Pp. 412, cloth. Price 5*s.*]

Thompson, Daniel Greenleaf. "Social Progress." (Longmans, Green, and Co.)
[An essay in two parts—(1) The Conditions and (2) the Promotion of Social Progress. Pp. 261, cloth. Price 7*s.* 6*d.*]

Woodhouse, F. C., M.A. "A Manual for Holy Days." (Wells Gardner Darton, and Co.
["A few thoughts for those week days for which the Church provides special services." The Feast of St. Thomas, for example, suggests "Modern Unbelief": Christmas Day suggests the "Place of Woman and Child in Christian Civilization." And so on. Pp. 366, cloth. No price stated.]

Bord's Pianos. 25 per cent. discount for cash, or 15*s.* per month (Second-hand, 10*s.* 6*d.* per month) on the three years' system. Illustrated Lists free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 42, SOUTHAMPTON-ROW, HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

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The Taoro Hotels Company (Limited) have acquired the above Hotel, as also the Marquesa, Zamora, and Buena Vista. They are now under entirely new and English management, and contain 120 bedrooms. Lawn Tennis. Billiards, Riding and Driving. Pure water, dry and bracing air. Finest climate in the world. Absolutely no winter. See the Holiday number of the *London Medical Recorder*. Telegraphic address, "Taoro," Puerto Cruz, Teneriffe.
There is a Resident English Chaplain and a Physician, M.D., London, M.R.C.S., near the Hotel. Reduced tariff. For terms and further particulars, address the Manager, Sanatorium Puerto Orotava, Teneriffe, or the Company's agents, Messrs. Sinclair, Hamilton, and Co., 17, St. Helen's-place, London, E.C.

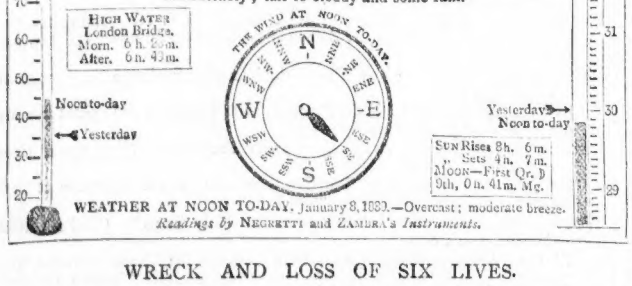
To-day and To-morrow.

TO-DAY.

"Ancient Lights," by Mr. Edgar Parman, Society of Architects, St. James's Hall, 7.
Bookkeeping and Auditing, by Ebenezer Carr, F.S.S., Society of Accountants and Auditors, Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, 8.
"The Distribution and Density of the Old British Population of Hampshire," by T. W. Shore, Anthropological Society, 3, Hanover-square, 8.30.
Medical and Chirurgical, 53, Berners-street, Oxford-street, W., 8.30.
Biblical Archæology, 9, Conduit-street, W., Annual Meeting, 8.
"A Chat on Gastropods," by S. Pace, Metropolitan Scientific Association, City of London College, 7.
Mdme. Patti's Farewell Concert, Royal Albert Hall, 8.
Presentation to Mrs. Chamberlain, Town Hall, Birmingham.
Salvation Army, Celebration of Commissioning of the 7,000th Officer, St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, 7.
Cloud and Cloudland, by Professor Dewar, Royal Institution, 3.
The Compound Principle Applied to Locomotives, by E. Worthington, Institute of Civil Engineers, 25, Great George-street, 8; Condemnation of the Sweating System meeting at the Conservative Club, 83, Blackfriars-road, 8.
County Council Meetings—Hoxton: Messrs. Edwin Austin and N. Moss, New Tabernacle, Old-street, 8. Mile-end: Messrs. Charrington and Hollington, Congregational Schools, Burdett-road, 8. West Islington: Mr. D. H. Macfarlane, Caledonian Rooms, Bingfield-street, 8.30. Norwood: Mr. W. B. Doubleday, Public Middle-class School, Gipsy-hill, 8. City: Messrs. H. Clarke, B. L. Cohen, and G. Shaw, Albion Hall, London Wall, 12. Peckham: Messrs. E. Jones and R. Lyon, Lecture Hall, Strudholme-street, Peckham, 8.30. Bow and Bromley: Miss Jane Cobden, St. Stephen's Church Room, Tredegar-road, 8.30; Mr. Rider Cook, Congregational Hall, Armagh-road, 8.30. Stepney: Messrs. Costelloe and Woollen, Latimer Hall, Bridge-street, 8.15. East Finsbury: Messrs. Sinclair and Benn, 127, Old-street (for lady voters). Fulham: Mr. James Beal, Noel Hall, Bullow-road, 8. Rotherhithe: Mr. L. Stevens, Millpond-bridge, 8.30 (open air). Deptford: Mr. William Phillips, New-cross (small) Hall, 8; Professor Thorold Rogers will speak. Greenwich: Messrs. Lidgett and Jackson, Charlton Assembly Rooms, 8. Marylebone: Messrs. Debenham and Farrant, Omega-road, Alpha-road, 8.30.
Shakspeare and Democracy, by E. H. Pickersgill, M.P.—City Temple, 8.
The Princess Mary Adelaide Duchess of Teck opens the Photographic Exhibition at Richmond, 3.
Camera Club—Photographic Exhibition, 21, Bedford-street, W.C.
Old Cliftonians' Reunion Dinner, at the Holborn Restaurant.
Old Olavians' Society—Conversazione, at St. Olave's Grammar School, 7.30.
Annual Show of Pigeons of the National Peristeronic Society, Crystal Palace (opening day).
British Orphan Asylum Election, Cannon-street Hotel, 12 till 2.
Carlyle Society, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, 8.
City College Science Society, Moorfields, 7.
Companies' Meetings—Metropolitan Electric Supply, Winchester House, 12; Continental Metropolitan Tramways, Winchester House, 12.
Coursing—Haydock Park.
Hunting Appointments—Staghounds: Her Majesty's, Farnham Common, 11.30. Foxhounds—South Berks, Coombe Lodge, Oxon, 11; Crawley and Horsham, Summers-place, 11.30; East Essex, Coleman's, 11; Essex and Suffolk, Copford-green, 11; Essex Union, Upminster Bell, 11; H. H., Ropley Cottage, 11.30; West Kent, Stansted, 11; East Sussex, Norman hurst Court, 11.30; Vine, Worting, 11.

TO-MORROW.

Last Day of Lodging County Council Nominations.
"How Chemists work," by Dr. Armstrong—Society of Arts, 8.
"The Growth of Crystals in Igneous Rocks," Professor J. W. Judd—Geological Society, Burlington House, 8.
"The Cost of executing some Classes of Engineering Work," by A. F. Bruce—Institute of Civil Engineers, Westminster Palace Hotel, 7.
Graphic Society, University College, W.C., 8.
Microscopical Society, King's College, W.C., 8.
Pharmaceutical Society, 17, Bloomsbury-square, W.C., 8.
Royal Literary Fund, 10, John-street, Adelphi, W.C., 3.
Entomological Society, 11, Chandos-street, W.—Annual Meeting and the President's Address, 7.
Photographic Club, Anderton's Hotel, 8.
The Conditions of Real Individual Liberty, by Mr. J. M. Fells, Brixton Liberal Association, 822, Brixton-road, 8.
"Shelley's Minor Poems," by Mr. Stopford Brooke—Shelley Society, 8.
St. Marylebone, Paddington, and District Licensed Trade Protection Society, Freemasons' Tavern, 5.
Dane Hill House, Margate, Old Boys' Dinner, at the Holborn Restaurant.
Old Cranbrook Boys' Reunion Dinner, at the Holborn Restaurant.
Royal Academy Club—Dinner at Willis's Rooms, St. James's.
Vaudeville Cinderella, second of the season, at Willis's Rooms, St. James's.



WRECK AND LOSS OF SIX LIVES.

A Central News telegram from Madrid says:—The Plymouth vessel, *Margaret Haine*, H. Langford, master, was wrecked yesterday near the small town of San Felin Guixols. Six of the crew were drowned while endeavouring to reach the coast in a boat. A fierce gale was blowing, and it was with great difficulty that the remainder of the crew reached the coast in safety.

FOURTH EDITION.

WHAT DID MR. GLADSTONE MEAN?

ANOTHER LETTER FROM NAPLES.

STILL AS MUCH IN THE DARK AS EVER.

The mystery of Mr. Gladstone's meaning when he wrote to the Marquis de Riso, declaring that the question of the present position of the Pope as raised by his correspondent was of such importance as to merit the intervention of an International Arbitration, is deepened by the following letter, which we have received from Mr. Gladstone this morning:—

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

Naples, Jan. 5, 1889.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have just seen the *Pall Mall Gazette* of Monday, and I regret to find that my telegram to you is given in a mistaken form. The words "statement incorrect" in the original text have no connection with the subsequent words "under circumstances," and the sentence as it stands conveys a wrong impression. Have the kindness to state that the two last words (now three) have been printed in error. The "statement" is incorrect absolutely, and I see that it has caused some perturbation in Italy.

I am not aware that Signor Riso is a Marquis.—Yours faithfully,

W. E. GLADSTONE.

The statement which is "incorrect absolutely" is that which we telegraphed to Mr. Gladstone—namely, that "the *Tablet* states you recommend International Arbitration Roman question."

That at least is clear, and we regret that the absence of punctuation in foreign telegrams led us to misconceive Mr. Gladstone's meaning. We stated when we published it—which, by the way, was not Monday, but Tuesday—that its brevity made it somewhat obscure. The words, "under circumstances," it seems, related to the concluding words of the telegram, which were personal to ourselves, but as they arrived they seemed to be unintelligible unless read as we printed them.

We fail, however, even after this correction, to understand what Mr. Gladstone meant when he wrote to the Italian correspondent whom he calls Signor, but whom the *Tablet* calls Marquis, that "the question"—what question?—"was of such importance as to merit the intervention of International Arbitration." Read in the light of De Riso's letter, the question was the position of the Pope *vis-à-vis* the Italian Government. But that is the Roman question, and Mr. Gladstone says it is absolutely incorrect to say that he ever proposed to refer the Roman question to arbitration. What, then, did he mean? We give it up.

The Roman correspondent of the *New York Herald* (Paris edition) says:—

"At the Vatican, although the right hon. member for Midlothian has Monsignor Persico against him, yet his visit is looked on with more favour than might be expected. The Riso letter has stirred up the whole Italian Liberal press against Mr. Gladstone, and not even the latest report launched—to the effect that he has requested an interview at the Quirinal with the King, 'having a special mission to fulfil'—tends to settle the matter. What is this 'special mission'? Is it the conciliation scheme? The Pope will have none of it. Is it the restitution of the Temporal Power? King Humbert and nine-tenths of the Italians will not listen to it. However, the interview is to be granted, and afterwards a dinner will be given in honour of Mr. Gladstone, to which Signor Crispi will be invited to meet him."

THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS AND HIS WIFE.

LADY CONNEMARA'S REASONS.

The Madras correspondent of the *Allahabad Morning Post*, telegraphing to his paper on Wednesday, December 19, said:—

Lady Connemara is still at the Albany Hotel. One reason assigned for her ladyship leaving Government House is that she objected to Lady Eva Quinn doing the honours of the house, and it is stated that she declared on leaving that she would not return whilst Lady Eva remained at Government House. As already announced Captain and Lady Eva Quinn left Madras for Calcutta on Sunday in the steamer *Rohilla*, and it is now reported that Lady Connemara will return to Government House to-day. The scandal has assumed the gigantic scale; and the Governor's popularity is on the wane. It is rumoured that Major Chisholm, the new Military Secretary, will also resign, as he does not find the office congenial.

Later the same day the correspondent wired:—"It is reported that Lady Connemara goes to-day to Guindy Park, and not to Government House, Mount-road, where the Governor is staying. Dr. Briggs is in attendance on her ladyship, who is always in delicate health."

According to the *World*, "the quarrel which led to the separation of Lord and Lady Connemara is one of old standing. Lady Connemara has not good health, and Lady Eva Quin, Lord Connemara's niece, went with her husband, Captain Quin, Lord Connemara's A.D.C., to help her aunt and Lord Connemara in any social matter. Lady Connemara from the first took a violent jealous dislike to Lady Eva, and after some time the relations between them became so strained that Captain Quin resigned his appointment, and he and Lady Eva were coming home. Lady Connemara had insisted that Lady Eva should not go and live at any of the Governor's houses; and for the last six weeks Lady Eva stayed at Coonor, while her husband was with Lord Connemara on his tour, at the house of Colonel Mears, a well-known officer in Madras, and on leaving him came to Madras for two nights before her departure for England.

"Knowing that Lady Connemara was in the hills, Lady Eva asked her uncle for permission to stay those two nights at Government House, to which he consented, and she came. Suddenly, without any warning, Lady Connemara, who had been at Otacamund, appeared in the evening, and insisted upon Lady Eva being turned out of the house, and drew up a paper of conditions and arrangements regarding a variety of things which she presented to Lord Connemara as an ultimatum, expressing her determination if he refused to sign it to leave Government House. Lord Connemara refused, after consultation with his friends, and Lady Connemara left Government House, accompanied by Surgeon-Major Briggs, who conducted her to the hotel, where, having arranged for her reception and that of her servants, he left her. There has been no question of any other kind save this in dispute between Lord and Lady Connemara."

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO THE CONTINENT.

A Madrid telegram to the Central News to-day says:—Her Majesty Queen Victoria has been for some time back anxious to pass a part of the spring in Pau, but being unable to secure proper accommodation there, she has taken the Villa Larochefoucald, at Biarritz, and two other houses for her suite. She will spend the month of March there.

A SHARP SKIRMISH IN BURMAH.

A Reuter's telegram from Mandalay to-day says:—The column under Brigadier-General Collett, despatched to the Salween River against Sawlapaw, chief of the Red Karens, came into conflict with the enemy on the 1st inst. After a sharp engagement, in which the British lost five Sepoys killed and seven wounded, the Karens were completely routed, and fled, leaving two hundred dead.

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL.

REDUCING THE AUSTRALIAN RECORD.

"There is a slight inaccuracy in the statement given in the papers concerning the record made by the American cricket ball thrower in Australia the other day," said Mr. J. Wisden, of the firm of Wisden and Co., the bat manufacturers, this morning. "The best record hitherto made I have on the authority of the late Mr. W. H. Knight, one of the greatest authorities on all matters relating to cricket, and formerly compiler of our almanac. In a book in my possession, there appears the following note in Mr. Knight's handwriting: 'George Parr threw a ball 109 yards; Mr. E. B. Fawcett, of Brighton College, is reported to have thrown a ball 126 yards 6 inches.' That is quoted from *Baily's Magazine*. Then follows Mr. Knight's note: 'I had it from Charles Ellis, the Sussex cricketer, who was then professional of Brighton College, that Mr. E. B. Fawcett, then a collegian, at Brighton College, threw it 127 yards 4 inches. The wind was at his back, and it was down hill. Ellis saw the throw and measured the distance." This reduces Crane's victory over the record to 1 yard 6½ inches. Another big throw was that of George Brown, at Warlesden Common, who threw a cricket ball 137 yards."

"THE PEACE-KEEPER OF EUROPE."

MESSAGE FROM THE TZAR TO AUSTRIA.

A very important piece of news, if authentic, reaches us from Vienna, on the authority of the correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, who says:—M. Zouyeff, the Russian Military Attaché to the Vienna Embassy, who has just returned from St. Petersburg, where he has been on leave, is said to have been authorized by the Tzar to give the most definite assurance of his Imperial Majesty's pacific intentions to the Emperor Francis Joseph. The Tzar is said to have declared that he strongly desired that every possible cause of conflict between Russia and Austria might be removed, and his Imperial Majesty is reported to have added that, doubtful as Austria's policy had once appeared to him with regard to Eastern affairs, he was now convinced of the uprightness and loyalty of Austria's intentions, while Russia, for her part, was firmly resolved to do nothing calculated to disturb the friendly relations hitherto existing between the two empires.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE PANAMA CANAL.

The United States Senate yesterday discussed the Panama Canal question in secret session, and by 49 votes to 3 adopted a joint resolution declaring that the Government of the United States would look with serious concern and disapproval upon any connection of any European Government with the construction or control of any Ship Canal across the Isthmus of Darien or Central America, and must regard any such connection or control as injurious to the just rights and interests of the United States, and a menace to their welfare. In conclusion, the President is requested to communicate this resolution to the Governments of Europe.—*Reuter.*

A despatch from Panama (says a subsequent telegram) announces the arrival of her Majesty's ironclad *Swiftsure*, flagship of the Pacific squadron, and her Majesty's cruiser *Caroline*. Both the *Star* and *Herald* publish telegrams from Panama announcing that the Canal Company will immediately re-engage 4,000 men who were unemployed, owing to two of the contractors having stopped work.

THE WARDEN OF MERTON AND THE PARNELL COMMISSION.

THE WRIT SERVED.—OTHER APPLICATIONS PENDING.

The Hon. George Brodrick, the Warden of Merton, was to-day served with a writ summoning him to appear at the reopening of the Parnell Commission to answer for an alleged contempt of court contained in a speech delivered to the "University Unionist League."

The application was, it will be remembered, made at the last meeting of the Commission prior to its adjournment. Sir James Hannen then made an order for the issue of a writ conditionally on an affidavit being forthcoming to show that the Warden really used the words imputed to him. Mr. George Lewis has since filed the affidavit; and to-day emissaries of the law have been despatched to Merton, Oxford, to serve the writ upon the head of that college. It is lucky either for the Warden, or for the legal emissaries, or both, that the undergraduates are not yet generally in residence, or it is probable that there would be some horse-play over so unusual and exciting an incident as the summoning of the head of a House to appear before a court of law.

It is understood that Mr. Brodrick, who is an old *Times* journalist and a very ready speaker, will address the court in his own defence, will urge that his words were spoken only in an academic sense, and will anticipate Sir James Hannen's "humbling hand" by making full submission to the court.

The matter will not end, however, with the example thus made of the Warden. There were several other Tory and Unionist dons present at the meeting in question, none of whom disclaimed any of the language attributed to Mr. Brodrick.

FOUR PERSONS MURDERED WITH DYNAMITE "OUT WEST."

THE MURDERER LYNCHED.

A Central News telegram from New York says: A terrible affair is reported from the town of Seattle, in the Far West. John Schaeffer, who had been convicted for an assault upon the wife of a fellow-townsman, James Boydola, procured a quantity of dynamite and hid it in Boydola's house, previously making careful arrangements for its certain explosion. Mrs. Boydola, her daughter, and two workmen were all killed either by the explosion or by the falling ruins of the house, which was totally wrecked, and James Boydola was so terribly mangled that his recovery is doubtful.

The people of Seattle seized and lynched him with as little ruth as he had displayed in his own revenge.

GOVAN ELECTION.—POLLING DAY FIXED.

The writ arrived in Glasgow to-day. Sheriff Berry has fixed the 14th January for the nomination, and the 18th for the election.

THE DUKE OF RUTLAND.—FAVOURABLE BULLETIN.

The Duke of Rutland is reported to be better this morning. It is believed that his Grace's improvement may be now regarded as established.

THE COST OF THE JUBILEE FUNCTIONS.

The last remaining accounts in connection with the Jubilee celebration have (the *World* says) just been settled, and money matters have been squared between the Queen and the Treasury. There were great complaints about the enormous amount of many of the bills in the departments of the Lord Steward and the Master of the Horse. The total cost to her Majesty of the Jubilee hospitalities and functions was just £60,000, but this does not include the expense of the decorative works which were completed during the year before the Jubilee at Buckingham Palace, and in the state and private apartments at Windsor Castle.

EXECUTION AT ASTON TO-DAY.

George Nicholson, a baker, was executed at Warwick this morning for the murder of his wife at Aston. The prisoner, who was fifty-two years of age, exhibited considerable firmness on the scaffold Berry was the executioner. A drop of six feet was allowed. The Governor announced that the prisoner had fully acknowledged the justice of his punishment, and had died forgiving every one connected with him. He had been visited once since his confinement by the son of the woman whose life he had taken.

CLAIM FOR £100,000 AGAINST THE "FINANCIAL NEWS."

A great financial *cause célèbre* which will be heard shortly by the court will be that in which Mr. George Washington Irving, an American promoter, claims £100,000 damages for alleged libel with the issue of the prospectus of the Homer District Consol Gold Mines (Limited). It may be remembered that this group of mines was offered to the British public early in the year 1886 for £1,000,000. It has since then gone into liquidation upon the application of some shareholders. Mr. Justice North, in the Chancery Division, directed their names to be removed from the register on the ground that there had not been a *bonâ fide* allotment of shares.

A FATAL RAILWAY COLLISION.

Last night, on the North Staffordshire Railway, at Chatterley, a train of twenty-one waggons came violently into collision with an engine belonging to the Talke Colliery. which was attached to several waggons. Alfred Johnson, shunter, besides internal injuries, had both legs and arm broken, and has since died. Daniel Holland had his leg severed from his body, and is not expected to recover, and John Bailey, engine driver, was dreadfully crushed and burnt.

LORD HARRIS NAMED FOR BOMBAY.

Lord Harris (says the London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury*) will probably be the next Governor of Bombay. Lord Reay's time is up this year, and he would not accept a renewal of his term of office even if it were offered. Lord Harris is a respectable official, but by no means a very brilliant man. He is better known as a cricketer than a politician. This, however, is no recommendation to the natives of India, and I doubt if he will be able to continue the sympathetic administration of Lord Reay.

THE NEW PROVISION FOR ROYAL PRINCES.

"There are so many different versions of the story as to the origin and originator of the scheme for making some provision for the children of the Prince of Wales and Duke of Albany," observes "Atlas" in the *World*, "that it may be as well to say that I know on the best authority that Sir John Rose was the person who proposed and formulated the plan. When the Prince of Wales appointed him Receiver of the Duchy of Cornwall he undertook to look into the Prince's affairs, which, though not in a state of embarrassment, required some oversight, and the Prince then consulted him on the question which caused him much anxiety—namely, the future of his children. Sir John, on looking into matters, suggested the plan now being carried out, which he discussed with Mr. W. H. Smith to gain the consent of the Cabinet. Mr. Gladstone's acquiescence in it was secured through the good offices of Sir Reginald Welby; for without his consent many difficulties might have been raised. Lord Sydney was consulted at a later stage as to the offices that could be abolished with least inconvenience. The idea and carrying out of the details, however, originated with Sir John Rose alone.

"I understand," "Atlas" adds, "that the Queen made very few objections, and that the difficulties she raised were easily overcome, and in the whole matter she acted both kindly and generously."

TERRIBLE DEATH OF A YOUNG WOMAN.

The coroner for North Staffordshire held an inquest at Stoke Infirmary yesterday on the body of Margaret McGarry, a young woman of weak intellect, who met with a terrible death on Sunday morning. The deceased lived with a man named Smith, a rag-gatherer, at Newcastle-under-Lyme, and as the pair lay before the fire in their dwelling, Smith, who was intoxicated, seems to have raked by accident some burning embers from the fire, which set the woman's clothes in flames. She appealed to him for help, and also to open the door, but although she lay burning to death at his feet he made no effort on her behalf. Meanwhile the neighbours, attracted by her screams, rushed to the spot, but could not enter the house as the doors were locked. They, too, appealed to Smith, who, however, made no response, but coolly watched McGarry burn. Eventually the woman, with her body in flames, leaped through a window at the back of the premises, and was conveyed to the North Staffordshire Infirmary, where she died. At the inquest yesterday a verdict of accidental death was returned, but the coroner, censuring Smith, said he was the most depraved brute he had ever met with in his life.

THE "YEOMEN OF THE GUARD" AND "NADGY."

Mr. Gilbert has received a cable message announcing the forthcoming withdrawal of "The Yeomen of the Guard" from the Casino at New York. It was announced and intended that the play should run for 150 nights. Withdrawn next Monday, it will have run for only ninety-six. The change of plan is due, not to any falling off in the attractions of the piece, but because Mr. Rudolph Aronson finds himself under engagement to replace "Nadgy" on the Casino stage. The opera is running simultaneously in six cities throughout the United States, as many distinguished companies having been engaged. The gross receipts from the performances have been at the rate of £7,000 a week. The share already earned by Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan in the shape of royalties amounts, I hear, to about £4,000.—London correspondent, *Sheffield Independent*.

DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP CROKE'S BROTHER.

The Rev. James Croke, formerly Roman Catholic Vicar-General of California who recently resigned owing to ill-health, died yesterday in a hospital in New York. He was a brother of Archbishop Croke.—*Central News Telegram*.

THE "CAPTIVE ANDROMACHE."

Sir J. Picton writes to the *Liverpool Mercury*:—In the discussion at the city council on Wednesday last, the most extravagant estimate of the value of the copyright of this picture was put forward. Mr. Joseph Ball told the council that Sir Frederick Leighton would put thousands into his pocket by the permission to reproduce it. Wishing to ascertain the truth, I have made inquiry, and am informed by Sir Frederick that the sum he is to receive for permission to engrave the picture is 200 guineas.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

A dentist named Ayer, residing at Hazleton, Pennsylvania, shot his wife dead (a Central News telegram says) with a revolver yesterday, and then committed suicide by shooting himself. The deed is attributed to monetary troubles.

A SHIP CANAL SCHEME ABANDONED.

It is understood that the promoters of the Irish Sea and Birkenhead Ship Canal scheme, of which the necessary parliamentary notice was given last November, do not intend to proceed further with their scheme in the ensuing session of Parliament.

THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION OF GEFFCKEN'S RELEASE.

The decision of the Berlin High Court of Justice was published in the *Official Gazette* last night, and is to the effect that, although there are grounds for suspecting that Professor Geffcken published matter that should have been kept secret in the interests of the welfare of the German Empire as against other Governments, there was not sufficient reason for supposing that Professor Geffcken knew that the article in question in the *Deutsche Rundschau* contained such matter. Hence, it was ordered that the prosecution for high treason against Professor Geffcken should be annulled, that he should be released, and that the Imperial Treasury should be mulcted in costs.

The *Post*, in an apparently inspired article, contradicts the assertions of the Liberal press, which has throughout regarded the Geffcken case, so to speak, as a kind of duel between the Doctor and Prince Bismarck, and consequently tries to make it an excuse for renewed attacks against him. These endeavours will be just as fruitless, the *Post* says, as all former ones have been. The most gracious congratulatory letter from the Emperor to Prince Bismarck on New Year's Day proves that the Chancellor enjoys more than ever the full confidence of his Sovereign.

UNIONIST SECESSIONS FROM THE "NATIONAL LIBERAL."

It is stated that, although Lord Derby has ceased to be a member of the National Liberal Club, he remains the chairman of the Buildings Company. The total number of Union secessionists from the club is about three hundred, of whom some twenty or thirty have intimated that their resignations were tendered under a misapprehension, and they have been reinstated. Against the withdrawals, 430 new members have been elected since the 1st of December, and 170 candidates have been nominated for election at the next meeting of the committee. Amongst those seeking re-election are Lords Spencer and Cavan, Mr. Pierce Mahony, M.P., Sir W. Wedderburn, and others.

THE COMMISSARIAT AND TRANSPORT SERVICE.

An important memorandum was yesterday issued from the War Office, pointing out to generals commanding districts that the recent Royal Warrant for the Reorganization of the Commissariat and Transport Staff has quite changed the conditions under which the army has hitherto been provided with supplies and transport. By the new warrant the executive duties of supply and transport are made the regimental duty of the new Army Service Corps, and the administrative duties connected with the service are to be performed under direct supervision by officers of the staff. The duties of supply and transport, and of the services which in the army have always been associated with them, have ceased to be in any sense departmental, and their direction will form part of the regular staff duties of the army.

Sir Horace Davey, M.P., arrived in Stockton yesterday, and is the guest of Mr. W. Whitwell, J.P., at Overdene, Saltburn.

Mr. Henry Withrington, from Bow-street, has been appointed second clerk at the Westminster police-court, in succession to Mr. Richardson, deceased.

The winner of the chief prize of this year's Art Union ballot was a policeman attached to Moor-street division, Birmingham.

A veteran inhabitant of Hartlepool, Dr. Paul Maude Edger, died yesterday morning.

Mr. A. H. Collingwood, assistant town clerk at Cardiff, has been recommended by a committee to be town clerk at Carlisle, in the place of Mr. John Nanso resigned.

Mr. Farndale, the chief constable of Birmingham, who is suffering from paralysis, has had a relapse, which has aroused fresh fears among his friends and medical advisers.

Mr. William Hill, who during the past thirty-seven years has held a leading position among the architects of Leeds, died on Saturday morning. He had carried out several important works besides upwards of 100 chapels and schools in different parts of England. At the time of his death he was engaged upon the erection of the new town hall at Portsmouth, estimated to cost upwards of £100,000.

A YEAR'S FOREIGN TRADE.

Our foreign trade during the closing month of the year is less satisfactory than everybody anticipated it would be, the imports showing an increase of 11 per cent, and the exports a decrease of 7½ per cent. A rise in values in several of the leading articles imported accounts so far for the increase under that head, but it is not so easy to explain the diminution on the other side. It is just possible that temporary causes may have been at work, and that during the current month the persistent improvement shown throughout the whole of 1888 may be continued. For December the figures were:—

Imports.....	£37,941,000	.....	Increase..... £3,767,000, or 11	per cent.
Exports.....	18,814,000	.....	Decrease ... 1,571,000, or 7½	,,
Re-exports	5,139,000	.....	Decrease ... 94,000, or 2	,,

Nearly all the classes of imports show increases, but there is a special growth under the head of raw materials for textile and other industries, which have exceeded the corresponding month by over 2½ millions. Wheat, barley, tea, and timber have also come in larger quantities, but there is a decided decrease in the flour shipments from the United States, which will be satisfactory to those who are seeking to organize a flour ring. As the largest increases in the imports are in raw materials for textiles, so our heaviest decreases in the exports are in the manufactured articles of that class, cottons having fallen off by £843,000, and woollen and worsted manufactures by £384,000. Metals and ironwork are also lower by £235,000. For the whole year the figures are:—

Imports.....	£386,582,000	.....	Increase £24,647,000, or 6¾	per cent.
Exports.....	233,734,000	.....	,, 12,320,000, or 5½	,,
Re-exports ...	64,613,000	.....	,, 5,264,000, or 8¼	,,

The total foreign trade of the year thus mounts up to the huge total of £684,929,000, an increase of £42,232,000, or 6½ per cent. The imports of gold and silver for the year amounted to £22,000,000, and the exports to £22,559,000.

LORD RANDOLPH ON THE PREMIER.

Lord Randolph Churchill, writes the London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury*, has no great opinion of Lord Salisbury as a Foreign Minister. He described him the other night as in a "state of constant funk," but it must in justice be recollected that Lord Randolph is at present a very hostile critic.

A DUEL BETWEEN COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS.

A bloodthirsty and unscientific duel took place yesterday outside Limoges between two commercial travellers, neither of whom had ever used rapiers before. The men had a dispute about the respective firms of which they were the representatives, and, although utterly inexperienced in the "noble art of self-defence" as practised in this country, they insisted upon calling one another out. Notwithstanding the piercing cold, they "peeled," and faced one another with fury. After several mad lunges and haphazard parries the duel was terminated by a severe wound received by one of the combatants, whose right arm was literally ripped open from the wrist to the elbow.

AFTER HALF A CENTURY IN THE PRESS GALLERY.

The death is announced of Mr. James Mould, who was attached to the parliamentary reporting staff of the *Morning Herald* and the *Standard* for nearly half a century. Mr. Mould had reached the ripe age of seventy-five years, but he was in the active and efficient discharge of his professional duties as chief of the *Standard* staff until a year and a half ago, when he retired, not from any failure in his general health, but from intermittent deafness, which had shortly before begun to afflict him. He was a man of culture and wide literary tastes, and he witnessed from his seat in the gallery the greatest parliamentary debates and scenes of the last fifty years.

THE ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL LAW CASES.

The first action to be tried at the sitting of the court on the 11th inst. will be that brought by Mr. St. Vincent Mercier, secretary of St. John's Hospital, against Mr. Dalziel, the proprietor of *Ally Sloper*, and one brought against Mr. Labouchere, proprietor of *Truth*. This investigation will embrace a thorough inquiry into the plaintiff's conduct in connection with the hospital which has been the cause of so much comment some months since. Mr. Lockwood, Q.C., M.P., and Mr. Gye will be counsel for plaintiff, while on behalf of the defendants have been retained Sir C. Russell, M.P., Q.C., Mr. Finlay, Q.C., Mr. Lionel Hart, and Mr. Bennett. The action will be tried before a special jury.

WHERE THE ROBBERS WOULD NOT FIND IT.

Mr. Dixon, a tradesman, of Brentwood, made a singular discovery upon shooting a sack of oats which he had purchased of Mr. Mason, a small farmer, in the neighbourhood. Among the oats was a tin box, which was found to contain £50 in gold and bank notes, and bonds to the value of £300. Mr. Dixon at once drove over to the farmer's and restored the property, and was rewarded for his honesty and trouble by a bushel of oats and the promise of a rabbit. It seems that the farmer's mother, who died some months ago, was in the habit of hoarding up money, and as one of the rooms of the farmhouse was used as a granary, it is supposed that she placed the property found in one of the sacks in this room as a security against robbers.

BURNED TO THE WATER'S EDGE.

Particulars have been received of the total destruction by fire of the ship *Inch Murren*, of Glasgow, 1,254 tons register, while on a voyage from Iquique to the United Kingdom. She was laden with a cargo of nitrate of soda, and was in lat. 14.41 deg. south, long. 35.13 deg. west, about six o'clock on the morning of the 24th of November, when she was discovered to be on fire. Owing to the inflammable nature of the cargo the flames spread fore and aft with great rapidity, and burst almost simultaneously through the fore and after hatches. The lifeboat was launched, but owing to the rapidity with which the flames spread throughout the ship there was no time to put either food or water into the boat, and as the boat was considerably overloaded and leaking badly great inconvenience was experienced. For forty-eight hours the crew were exposed to the rays of a blazing sun, and suffered intense agony from thirst; but they were eventually picked up by an American barque bound for Rio de Janeiro, where they were safely landed.

Mr. Bright is progressing very satisfactorily. He slept well last night.

The Glasgow Liberal Club, whose members consist of Gladstonians and Liberal Unionists, has invited Mr. Chamberlain to a dinner.

News received at Sunderland by different shipowning firms shows that seventeen vessels are icebound at Odessa.

Mr. Osmond Tearle appeared in "Virginius" at the Theatre Royal, Stockton, last night.

The son of Dr. Marriott, of Leicester, a lad of fifteen, hung himself in his bedroom last night at Leicester.

A dense fog overhangs the Seine, and the weather is very cold. The Boulevards and other roadways are covered with a thin coating of ice.—*Central News Telegram*.

The Russian artist M. Jan de Chelminsky has just sold his picture representing the "Tzarina of Russia Foxhunting" to the Tzar. The same artist is now exhibiting his picture of Hyde Park at Tooth's.

The late Mr. John Jowitt has left by will £500 to the Leeds General Infirmary, £500 to the Yorkshire College, and £500 to the Leeds Town Mission, in each case free of duty.

Colonel G. L. W. Flamstead died very suddenly at Whitby on Sunday morning. Colonel Flamstead spent the chief portion of his military life in India, and he served with distinction in the Burmese war. In politics he was a Liberal, and in religion a Roman Catholic.

Alexandrine Jamais, a factory worker accused of having fired a revolver at Salviel Roncier, aged twenty-six, a printer, who was wounded, has been acquitted by a Paris jury. She had been seduced by Roncier, who abandoned her when she became a mother.

The interest excited by the Stuart Exhibition has decided the directors of the New Gallery to hold next winter an exhibition of the House of Tudor, in which the Royal portraits will be supplemented by a representation of the most eminent statesmen and men of letters belonging to each reign.

Yesterday afternoon Dr. Parker preached in Hexham, his native town, in aid of the funds of the Congregational sunday school, in which he was trained. The service was held in the town-hall, which was crowded in every part, and hundreds were unable to gain admission.

The Rev. R. Milburn Blackiston, secretary of the Incorporated Church Building Society, Dean's-yard, has, on the nomination of the Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal (Rev. E. Sheppard), been appointed to the office of Deputy-Chaplain of the Chapel Royal, Whitehall, in succession to the late Rev. C. H. De La Mothe.

The death is announced of Mr. Stephen Barker, until lately one of the most prominent figures in the business life of Birmingham, and an active participator in its public work. He was a director of Muntz's Metal Company, and he had an extensive connection with the mining interest. While officiating as a steward at the Triennial Musical Festival in 1885 he was stricken down with paralysis.

THE MONEY MARKET.

Half-past One.

HOME RAILWAYS BETTER.—FOREIGN STOCKS DULL.—AMERICANS IRREGULAR.

There is little feature of interest in the Stock Markets again this morning. Business is still on a limited scale, and the changes in prices are slight. New Consols have again been bought, and show a further recovery of 3-16, but in the Home Railway market the tendency on the whole is adverse. Chatham Preference stock continues to receive a large share of attention, and has further risen, and North British descriptions are firm, but otherwise the movements are mostly to lower prices. Foreign Government Bonds are almost entirely neglected, at any rate so far as European descriptions are concerned, but there has been a strong inquiry for Peruvian issues, which have advanced ⅜ to ½. American Railroads are irregular: the report current yesterday that the Reading Railway Company have decided to pay the full interest on First and Second Preference Income shares, and two and a half interest on Third Income shares, including eighteen months' arrears, is now confirmed, but the ordinary shares have fallen. Grand Trunk of Canada stocks are higher, but Mexican Railway issues have given way on the traffic, which shows a decrease for the week of £2,700, the total take having been £13,900. Nitrate shares are again weak, also Rio Tinto shares.

The dividend money has been released, the Treasury bill operation has been completed, the open market has repaid all the loans falling due at the Bank of England up to date, and yet there is plenty of money seeking employment in the open market, and the quotations for short loans is no better than 2½ per cent. The discount rate is easy at 3 per cent. for three months' bank paper, and at present shows no sign of a recovery. The allowances made by the bill brokers and discount houses for deposit is still rather above the discount rate, and it is not at all unlikely that a further reduction may shortly be made. There is a considerable difference of opinion as to what action the Bank of England directors will take on Thursday, and the position altogether is a very uncertain one. If, as is reported, the Bank is taking back the stock on which it recently borrowed cash, it would appear that a reduction in the rate is probable.

The firm of T. Grime and Co., papermakers, Darwen, have issued a circular to their creditors intimating that they are unable to continue their business. A meeting of creditors is called for Wednesday. The liabilities are not disclosed. The failure, it is reported, has caused a great sensation in the town and neighbourhood.

By the expedient of giving shares of the Panama Railway to the contractors, the works of the Panama Canal are to go on, pending the formation of a new company, which is to be formed with the object of completing the undertaking. The *Standard's* Paris correspondent says the share capital is to represent twenty-five million francs, and to be reserved exclusively to the present Panama stockholders. The shares are to be of 500 f., bearing 5 per cent. interest till the works are finished and the Canal opened for traffic. They will then, in addition to that interest, have a right to 5 per cent. of the net profits of the Canal. The obligations to be issued by the new company will take precedence over all the existing bonds and shares issued by the original company. Whatever sums may remain after satisfying the privileged claims of the bonds and shares of the new company will be handed over to the original company. M. de Lesseps is to be at the head of the new company.

The applications for the capital of the Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway Company (Limited) amount to £9,000,000.

The business of Messrs. Phillips and Co., distillers, of West Ham, has been converted into the Abbey Mills Distillery (Limited), and the necessary capital having been privately taken up no prospectus will be issued.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.—Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company, 15*s.* per share, together with a bonus of 5*s.* per share for the past half-year; North Eastern Banking Company, 3*s.* 6*d.* per share, being at the rate of £5 16*s.* 8*d.* per cent. per annum; London and Yorkshire Bank, at the rate of 7 per cent., as against 6 per cent. last year; Exchange and Discount Bank at the rate of 10 per cent.; Banco International do Brazil, at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum for past half-year, after adding to reserve and profits in suspense £29,000; Raffety, Thornton, and Co., at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for half-year, together with a bonus of 1 per cent., after writing £2,500 off goodwill account; Kimberley Central Diamond Mining Company, 5 per cent. (interim); and Jumpers Gold Mining Company, 10 per cent.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The market opened quiet. Probable sales, 10,000 bales. Prices on the spot are steady. Futures are one point down.

The following are the latest movements compared with last night:—

HOME RAILWAYS.—*Improved*: Chatham Preference ⅜, Hull and Barnsley, District, North British Deferred and Preferred ½ each. *Receded*: Great Eastern, Great Western, North Eastern, and South Eastern Deferred ⅛ each.

FOREIGN STOCKS.—*Advanced*: Peruvian 1870 ½, the 1872 ⅜, and Greek 1881 ¼. *Declined*: Egyptian Unified and Spanish Four per Cents. 1-16.

AMERICAN RAILWAYS.—*Risen*: Milwaukee and St. Paul and Norfolk and Western Preference ⅜, Union Pacific ¼, Lake Shore, Louisville and Nashville, and Ohio and Mississippi Ordinary ⅛. *Fallen*: Reading shares ⅜, Wabash Preference ⅜, the Mortgage ¼, Central Pacific and Northern Pacific Preference ⅛ each.

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.—*Improved*: Grand Trunk Second Preference ⅜, the First Preference ¼, the Third Preference and Guaranteed ⅛, the Ordinary 1-16, and Lombardo-Venetian 1-16. *Lower*: Mexican Ordinary, First and Second Preference ¼, and Canadian Pacific ⅛.

MINES AND MISCELLANEOUS.—*Improved*: Suez Canal ¼, and Hotchkiss Ordinary ⅛. *Receded*: Guinness's Ordinary 1¼, Liverpool Nitrate ¾, Primitiva Nitrate ¼, Rio Tinto, and Bryant and May ⅛.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.				Brighton A.....	132½	⅝		London and West.	69	70	
Consols	99⅞	100		Chatham(Ordinary)	24½	¾		London Joint Stock	40	1	
New Consols (2¾)	98 9/16	11/16		Do. Preference..	104½	5½		Nat. Prov. of Eng.	43½	44½	
Reduced 3 p. c. ..	100½	⅛		North Western	170½	½		Stand. Bnk. S. Africa	49⅝	50¼	
Local Loan Stock..	103¼	⅛		South Western	143½	4½		**MINES.**			
New 2½ per Cent.	56	⅛		Manchester & Shef.	68	70		Indian Consolidated	5/16	⅜	
India 3½ per Cent.	107	½		Do. A	35½	⅝		Mysore shares	3⅝	¼	
Do. 4½ p. c. Ru.	70¼	1		Met. Consolidated .	76¾	7¼		Ooregums	1 9/16	11/16	
Egyptian Guar. ..	101	2		Do. Land Stock	69½	70½		Cape Copper	5¾	6	
Met. Bd. Wks. 3½	111¾	12½		Do. District ..	33	½		Namaqua	3⅞	4¼	
Do. 3 p. c. Scrip	103¾	¼		Midland	137¼	⅝		Mason and Barry..	9⅝	⅜	
BirminghamCrp.St	111	12		North British Pref.	75⅝	⅝		Rio Tinto	24⅞	5⅛	
Liverpool	111	12		Do. Def.	57⅜	⅝		Montana £1 shares	2	⅛	
FOREIGN STOCKS.				North Eastern	163½	⅝		DeBeers new shares	15¼	½	
Argentine 6 p. c. ..	101	3		North Stafford	115½	14½		S. African Explor.	16⅞	17½	xall
Do. Hard Dols..	67½	8½		South Eastern	132	4		**TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES**			
Do. Treasury ..	84	9		Do. Deferred....	103	¼		Anglo-American ..	48½	9½	
Austrian Gold	91	3		**FOREIGN RAILWAYS.**				Do. Pref.....	81	2	
Do. Silver	69	70	xd	Canada Pacific	53½	⅜		BrazilianSubmarine	13¼	½	
Brazilian 1879	101¼	2½	xd	Can. Pacific Share	36½	¾		Direct Unit. States	9¼	10	
B. Ayres 6 p. c....	100	1		Chic. Mil. and St. Pl.	64¾	5		Eastern	12¾	¼	
Do. Cedulas I....	59	¼		Denver & R. Grande	17	¾		Ditto Extension..	12⅜	⅜	
Chilian 4½ p. c. 1885	100	2	xd	Do. Pref.....	45¼	¾		United Telephone	14⅜	⅝	
Costa Rica A.....	91	2	xd	Illinois Shares	117	18		Globe Teleg. Trust	6⅞	7⅛	
Do. B	89	90	xd	Lake Shore	106¼	½		**TRAMWAYS, ETC.**			
Egypt. State Dom.	100¼	1⅛		Ohio & Mississippi	22	⅛		London Gen. Om...	200	10	
Do. Unified	85¼	⅜		Louis. and Nash..	68⅝	⅝		London Street	13	14	
Do. Preference..	102⅜	⅝		Mex. Cen. Bonds..	69	70	xd	London Tramway ..	14½	15½	
Do. Daira Sanieh	79	¼		Miss. Kan. & Texas	13½	14		North Metropolitan	17½	18	
French 5 p. c. Rnts.	81½	2	xd	N. Y. Cen. Shares	111½	¾		**WATERWORKS.**			
Do. 4½ p. c. Rnts.	105¾	⅜		New York Ontario	15½	⅝		Chelsea Waterworks	255	61	xd
Greek 5 p. c. 1881..	24	½	xd	Erie Shares	27⅞	8½		East London	200	3	
Hung. Gold Rentes	84	½	xd	Do. Sec. Mort ..	100¾	¼		Grand Junction ..	121	6	
Italian	94½	¼	xd	Norfolk & West. Pref	52¾	¾		Kent	277	82	
Mexican Unverified	39¼	½	xd	N.Y.P. & O. 1st M.	34½	¾	xd	Lambeth.....	252	7	xd
Peruvian 5 p. c. '72	14⅞	15½		North Pacific Pref.	63¾	1		New River, New..	350	60	
Do. 6 p. c.	16½	¾		Pennsylvania Sh..	54½	5		S'thwrk & Vauxhall	105	70	
Portuguese.....	63½	¾	xd	Phil. & Read. Sh..	23¼	½		W. Middlesex	262	7	
Russian 1873	99½	¾		Union Pacific Shares	66⅝	⅜		**GAS & ELECTRIC LIGHT.**			
Spanish 4 p. c.	72¼	¾	xd	Wabash Preference	29	½		Gaslight & Coke A	252	7	
Turkish 1854	99	101		Do. Gen. Mort..	53½	40½		Imp. Continental ..	207	10	
Group 1	25½	7		Grand Trunk Ord.	10¼	⅜		South Metropolitan	293	304	
Group 2	15¾	¾		Do. First Pref..	69¾	6		BrushElecLt(£4pd)	3¼	4¼	
Group 4	18	⅛		Do. Second Pref.	45½	6		**MISCELLANEOUS.**			
4½ p. c. 1871....	83½	4		Do. Third Pref..	25⅛	⅝		Allsopp	7⅞	8¼	
5 p. c. Defence ..	89¼	6		Do. Guaranteed .	71½	¾		Guinness and Co...	310	12½	
5 p. c. Priority ..	88	9		Mexican Ordinary	42⅜	¾		Hotchkiss	11¼	12½	
Uruguay Unified ..	69¼	70¼	xd	Do. First Pref.	70½	16		Bryant and May ..	12⅜	13½	
Virginia Funded ..	40	1		Ob. do. 2nd Pref.	70½	1		Spratt's Patent	10½	¾	
U.S. 4½ p. c.....	110	12		Lombardo-Venetian	9¼	⅜		Liverpool Nitrate..	2⅞	31	
BRITISH RAILWAYS.				Varna 3 per cent..	8½	⅝		Primitiva Nitrate..	37	½	
Caledonian.....	113¾	⅛		Nitrate Railway ..	28	½		Salt Union Shares	5⅞	4½	spm
Great Eastern	68	⅝		**BANKS.**				P. and O. Steam ..	64	6	
Great Northern....	132½	19		Alliance Bank	14¼	¾		Royal Mail Steam	62	4	
Ditto A	102½	3½		City Bank	20½	1½		Nat. Discount Co..	11½	12	
Great Western	161¾	¾		Consolidated Bank	8	⅛		Hudson's Bay	13¾	19	
Hull and Barnsley	33¼	¾		Imperial Ottoman	11¾	⅜		Suez Canal.....	86	½	xd
Lanc. and York....	113	19		London and County	36½	7½		E. & W. Ind. Dock	13	21	
Brighton(Ordinary)	143	5		Union of London..	40	1		London and St. K.	40	2	

The following are quotations of securities receiving attention at present, and not given in our list above:—

Bulgarian Six per Cents.	83	9		Wemmers	14	⅛
Bell's Asbestos.....	17½	18		Langlaagtes	6½	⅜
Tarapaca Water	15¾	16¼		Jubilee	9¾	10
Oceana Land	17½	18¼		Robinson	58	60
Jumper's Gold	13½	14		San Jorge.....	9¼	¾pm
Spes Bona	6¼	¾				

LORD SALISBURY'S BRIBE TO GOVAN.

Speaking in support of Sir John Pender's candidature at Govan last night, Mr Stuart Wortley, the Under-Secretary for the Home Department, said that he had newly come from London to show that the Ministry of Lord Salisbury favoured the candidature of Sir John Pender. From conversation which he had had with the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Secretary of State for War, he knew it was the policy of the present Government to change, so far as they could, that policy with regard to our great constructive Departments which heretofore consisted in relying upon our Government dockyards and Government constructor of ordnance. They intended to place the work out on contract upon a larger scale, and thereby, in time of emergency, have a larger number of sources of supply.

TO-DAY'S TITTLE TATTLE.

Apropos of relics, I saw in a shop window in South Kensington, for sale, a collar—no, not one of Mr. Gladstone's—which once adorned the neck of Tom Sayers's "little dog"—evidently a mastiff. Tom used to drive a spirited and high-stepping nag, and the dog used to sit on the spare seat.

***

Question: Where are the unemployed? Answer: At the Round Pond. Yesterday afternoon the band of roughs who proffered their services to "Put 'em on, miss," or "Take 'em off, miss, take 'em off," were rather too much for most of the ladies; but I heard one rather sharper than the rest shut the whole crowd up: "I've *got* 'em on," she replied, in a stage whisper.

***

I don't know whether any of my readers have wondered how Mr. John Bright's residence at Rochdale came to be called "One Ash." It was in this wise: At Monyash, in Derbyshire, there is a farm so named, and many years ago Mr. Bright and his family visited the proprietor, Mr. Bowman, on the occasion of a meeting of "Friends." During dinner Mr. Bright said that he was building a new house, and, admiring the name, added that he should call his home "One Ash." An ancestor of Mr. Bright—John Grattan by name—lived at Monyash, being a dealer in flax and a weaver.

***

Apparently "Whitaker" has at last joined the democracy. In this year's almanac we notice a startling head-line, "Historic Peerage—Paupers in receipt of relief." Whether intentional or otherwise, this classification is indeed a hard drive at our old nobility.

***

When M. Galkin Wratzky, who is the head of the Russian Prison Board, reads the letter which the Howard Association has sent to the *Times* to complain of the condition of Russian prisons, he will probably resign his membership of that body. Surely it would have been better for Mr. Peek and Mr. Tallack to have sent their protest first to him, as he is a member of their association, and then, if need be, to have published their correspondence in the *Times*.

***

Of course I shall respect the anonymity of a mysterious correspondent who has written me twice or thrice anonymously about a great secret. But why could he not have given me his address at first?

***

Mrs. Ada Swanborough, whose death is recorded this morning, was in more senses than one an old stager—she was eighty-five. She produced many of the famous Strand burlesques in the days when burlesque was not wholly dependent on limbs and absence of drapery.

***

Amongst the famous burlesques brought out during Mrs. Swanborough's connection with the Strand Theatre were "The Field of the Cloth of Gold" and "The Very Latest Edition of the Lady of Lyons," in which was James Rogers, of whom Mrs. Bancroft gives a most interesting and pathetic account in her memoirs. It scarcely seems twenty years ago since I saw Mr. David James, Mr. Thorne, and Mr. Edward Terry in the "Cloth of Gold."

MY IDEAS ABOUT THE LONDON PARLIAMENT.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. AUGUSTUS HARRIS.

We mentioned Mr. Harris's name on Saturday in our list of twenty-five representative candidates for the office of County Councillor, pointing out that the director of Drury Lane Theatre possessed an enormous theatrical experience which well qualified him for the honour which he is seeking. One of our representatives has asked Mr. Harris a few questions, the answers to which will give some idea of the lines of the policy upon which he will run. The conversation is reported below:—

"Mr. Harris," he writes, "was sitting in his office, and at once offered to answer any questions which I might put to him. I asked him if he would be in favour of bringing the vestries, the district boards, the metropolitan asylums, the poor law guardians, and the School Board within the jurisdiction of the County Council."

"Of course I think the Council should have a certain and a sufficient control, though, so far as I understand, those bodies do not come within the statutable power of the London Council."

"Certainly not. But the Government has undertaken to consider any representation that the Council may make in that direction."

I then asked Mr. Harris if he would vote for the reform of the City of London, making it a district under the Council, with the Lord Mayor as chairman.

Mr. Harris thought for a minute, and then replied that in his opinion "the City will necessarily adapt itself to the new constitution."

"By the way, Mr. Harris, would you allow reporters to be present at the meetings and committees of the Council?"

"As far as practicable."

"What about the police? Do you think they should be placed under the control of the Council?"

"Subject to certain powers being reserved to the responsible executive of the county, I am certainly in favour of placing the police 'under the control of the Council.'"

"I suppose you would be willing to promote legislation for the erection of washhouses, the extension of free libraries, and the extension of open spaces?"

"Certainly more washhouses—*sanitas sanitatum*, you know. As for the libraries, I'm all for them if it can be done at a moderate cost, and the more open spaces the better, and also more market accommodation."

"I have just one or two more questions to put to you. Would you advocate the extension of tram lines, and ultimately of acquiring the property for the public?"

"I'm all in favour of increased and improved means of locomotion. As to the tramways, the public have reserved the right to buy; it is a question for the Council to consider whether and when the rights are to be exercised and the terms."

"And would you be in favour of buying up the control of the gas and water works?"—"Yes, on fair terms."

"And what about the theatres, Mr. Harris?"—"There you touch me on a tender spot. So far as he has control, I believe the Lord Chamberlain's office does its work very well. But what I—and all theatrical managers—would like would be to create a special department that should exercise control over the inspection of theatres. The department should be in the hands of thoroughly competent men, and should send out inspectors not to London alone but all over the kingdom. Take the country theatres—what do the magistrates or their agent who is responsible to them in each town know about the construction of a theatre? I could give you instances in which they have shown the grossest ignorance when they have come to make an inspection. Then, again, is it better to have well qualified men whose sole duty it is to inspect theatres, or men who may be called upon to act once a year? My idea is that such a set of officials as I have in my mind should be up in all the details of a theatre, not only in London or the provinces, but in French, German, and, in fact, of every theatre on the Continent."

SWEETNESS AND LIGHT IN FOGGY FULHAM.

MR. AND MRS. MENPES AT HOME.

It was an agreeable change to step out of the fog into the reception rooms at Mr. Menpes'. No paper on the walls, but a luminous tint of canary yellow, hung with charming etchings, with pretty Japanese trifles strewn about the room. But have we not already described the "Home of Taste," and faithfully reported Mr. Menpes' ideas upon the proper decoration of the house? It now only remains to say that yesterday afternoon a great crowd of well-known ladies and gentlemen filled the yellow room, also another room done in apple-green, with maids, also in apple-green and white, in attendance.

WHO WERE THERE.

For two hours the crowd filed in and out, and loudly were the expressions of admiration addressed to the master and mistress of the house. Lady Dorothy Nevill was there, and Lord Greenock, Lord Haye, Lady Fanny Fitzwygram, Lady Lindsay, Prince and Princess Malcolm Kohan, and Princess Cantacuzena. Miss Marion Terry looked charming in a cloak of some soft brown stuff, Miss Fortescue had braved the fog, and looked none the worse for her daring. Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Wilde, Miss Florence Terry, Miss Ulmar, Mrs. Frances Lowther, Miss Morell Mackenzie, Mr. Alexander (Macduff), Mr. Solomon, Mrs. and Miss Savile Clark, Mrs. Jopling, Mrs. Stannard—but there, the list grows apace. The complexions of the hosts of pretty girls who were there did not suffer, you may be sure, from the sunny yellow hues.

SIR MORELL MACKENZIE writes about the Soden Mineral Pastilles:—"I regard them as extremely valuable in obstinate Catarrhal Affections of the Throat. They are especially beneficial to Catarrhal Diseases of the Air Passages. I frequently found them of great service in the case of singers and public speakers." Acknowledged by the Medical Profession the best remedy for Throat Irritation, Coughs, Bronchitis, and Asthma. Of all Chemists, 1s. 1½d., or 15 stamps, from 10, Dyer's-buildings, Holborn, E.C.

"SIR ROBERT BELL THE CAT."

THE REPTILES' DESPAIRING WRIGGLE.

BISMARCK'S MOTIVE AVOWED.

The acknowledged semi-official correspondent of the *Montags Revue* of Vienna, who is said to be a German official occupying a prominent position in the Wilhelmstrasse, Berlin, states that the reason of the attack on Sir R. Morier is his supposed hostility to the Austro-German Alliance, and that Germany "cannot allow the most influential post at one of the most important Courts of Europe to be filled by a diplomatist who," according to this writer, "is working against the interests of German policy."

The Vienna *Tagblatt* writes:—"It is not Sir R. Morier who is being hunted down. It is the English Empire, which the Bismarcks, father and son, will continue to attack and to injure. They are, in fact, ready to go the length of seeking an alliance with Russia, if that be necessary, to ruin England's world-wide position."

The *Weiner Allgemeine Zeitung* says:—"The accusation that Sir R. Morier forged Marshal Bazaine's letter is the new insult cast at an active foreign diplomatist by journals having official information at command—an insult so gross that the world has never seen the like of it before. It is only heaping a second blunder upon the first."

The *Sonn- und Montags Zeitung* remarks that "the entire method of the German 'inspired' press is so mean and vile that the English papers are fully entitled to say, if they please, that the continuance of such proceedings will render all intercourse with the sponsors of the Reptile press impossible."

The *Pesther Lloyd* says:—"From a moral point of view, which is the only one to be considered, Sir Robert Morier has perfectly vindicated his character. What strikes us most is—first, that Count Bismarck's reply was dated Friedrichsruh—this implies that the Count's father knew and approved of this answer; and secondly, that the Count handed over his evidence—that is, the two letters of Deines—to the *Cologne Gazette* a fortnight after Sir Robert Morier's request that the Count should repudiate the foul and infamous libel and calumny."

TRYING TO BOLSTER UP THE FRAUD.

The *Cologne Gazette* yesterday declared it to be inconceivable that Sir R. Morier's name should have occurred to Marshal Bazaine in 1886 if it had not expressly been mentioned to him as a source of military intelligence. The journal then proceeds, without any introductory remarks, to quote a telegram from the Emperor Napoleon, at Metz, to Marshal Bazaine, at Borny. In this telegram, which was sent off at eleven P.M. on August 13, 1870, the Emperor communicated a despatch received from the Empress Eugénie concerning alleged intended movements of the German troops. Her Majesty reported a rumour to the effect that Prince Frederick Charles might turn towards Verdun, and after adding a few words regarding the possible consequences of such a movement continued: "The person who makes this communication believes that," &c.

The Rhenish paper adds:—"It is not said from whom the Empress got the news. There was no reason to betray the source at that time, when Bazaine was still an officer in the army; but the source, of course, was a foreign one, and the Empress certainly did not conceal it from her consort or from Bazaine, who had to test the trustworthiness of the news. There is no doubt that in 1886 Bazaine no longer had any reason for silence as to the events at Metz, and so indicated Sir Robert Morier as the source."

The Berlin *Post* says it is as a matter of course impossible for Morier and Bazaine to have had direct communication together in 1870, and that already, for this very reason, it was not reasonable to charge him with intended treachery. As diplomatic agent, it was his duty to communicate to his Government all that he could learn by means of his intimacy with the best informed authorities in Darmstadt, and in saying this not even *mala fides* is imputed to him; but it is a fact that reports of Sir Robert Morier presumably made to his Government were communicated to Marshal Bazaine, with the remark that they originated from a person named Morier.

COUNT HERBERT'S EXCUSE.

An inspired communication from Berlin in the *Politische Correspondenz* of yesterday contains the following:—

"The English Ambassador is mistaken if he imagines that he can unceremoniously disregard the statement of an aide-de-camp of the German Emperor. Such substantial evidence cannot be set at naught, and Sir Robert Morier's silence can only be regarded as an admission of his guilt. For a professional diplomatist he has committed an inconceivable blunder by addressing himself directly to the Foreign Minister of a country where he does not reside. He ought to have communicated with Count Bismarck through Sir Edward Malet. It was that piece of indecorum that Count Bismarck had in view when he referred to Sir Robert Morier's request as an astonishing demand."

MARSHAL BAZAINE'S FRENCH.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says that in 1874 Marshal Bazaine dictated his story to a friend, a lieutenant, who was afterwards to put it into good French. The original, as dictated by Marshal Bazaine, was in shocking style and full of grammatical errors. It took my friend a whole day to correct it. The Marshal afterwards copied it from beginning to end with his own hand, occasionally giving vent to his impatience by such exclamations as these—"Ah! que c'est assommant. Dieu! que c'est embêtant d'écrire! Ah! vraiment je n'en peux plus!"

I soon had another substantial proof that Marshal Bazaine could not write correctly in his own language. On Oct. 12, 1874, he sent me another letter, which I have kept, and of which I hold the original, at the disposal of Sir Robert Morier, should he wish to see it.

Thus it will be seen that the Berlin *Post* and the *Cologne Gazette* prove exactly the contrary of what they contend. If Marshal Bazaine's letter to Sir Robert Morier had been faultless there might have been ground to suspect that the Marshal had not written it; but as the style is so bad there can be no doubt that its author was Marshal Bazaine himself.

THE NATIONAL FINANCIAL OUTLOOK.

Mr. Jackson, speaking at Leeds last night, said there was a tendency to take an exceedingly roseate view of the financial prospects for next year. He had seen it suggested how enormous a surplus was likely to accrue; but the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in addition to the enormous relief given to local taxation already, intended next year to give a further portion of the probate duty, which he was afraid, or perhaps he ought to say he hoped, would represent nearly one million of money. In addition to this, he would say that while in the current financial year arrears of income-tax which had not been collected before the 1st of April were collected, and a considerable portion was on a 7*d.* basis, yet, his right hon. friend having reduced the income tax, there would only be the opportunity of collecting on a 6*d.* basis, which alone would represent a difference of 7½ millions. Therefore, there was already a million and a half of this proposed surplus already bespoken and gone.

HOW WATER WAS OBTAINED IN "THIRST-LAND."

At last night's meeting of the Geographical Society, a paper was read by Mr. F. S. Arnot, entitled "Journey from Natal to Bihé and Benguella, and thence across the central plateau of Africa to the sources of the Zambesi and Congo." The reader of the paper was led to make his expedition, which was that of a missionary character, from witnessing as a child a distribution of prizes in 1864 by Dr. Livingstone on his return from the Zambesi exploration. Mr. Arnot started from Natal in 1881, and made for the Transvaal with very slender resources. This, it appears, was not an unmixed evil, as he owed escape to that fact from some of the troubles that befall travellers furnished with a large stock of goods. This method of proceeding, however, was accompanied by many inconveniences. The travellers had to traverse the "thirst land" on Livingstone's route, and the only means of obtaining water was that adopted by the wandering bushmen of the Masaroa race. How Mr. Arnot obtained water may best be described in his own words: "A few wandering bushmen of the Masaroa race, however, came to our relief, and to their kindness we doubtless owed our lives. Digging pits in the sand, they sank long reeds to the bottom of these, and with an unusual power of suction, acquired by long practice, they slowly drew up the water from the sand, discharging it from their mouths into tortoise shells; and so great was our thirst that we eagerly drank the frothy liquid. Morning and evening we were sustained by a little of this turbid fluid." Mr. Arnot's oblique journey across Africa corresponded on the whole with that of Major Serpa Pinto. Mr. Arnot's object in going to Africa was to establish a healthy missionary station in the interior, and it was accomplished after seven years. Although he travelled without a white, or even a black companion, he never received any ill-treatment. Guns were carried by some of the party, but only for hunting purposes.

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JUVENILE DRINKING IN THE EAST END.

LADY SOMERSET SPEAKS OUT.

One day last week Lady Henry Somerset, a very earnest and eloquent champion of total abstinence, was initiated at Hereford into the Order of the Rechabites, and in a long speech spoke out frankly about drinking at White-chapel. "A week or two ago, on a Saturday night," she said, "I was walking down Whitechapel-road, and as I went a great longing came into my heart that I could take some of the leading men of our land down into the midst of that scene. Oh! the misery, degradation, and sin that were there, all springing from the feet of this awful drink traffic, which flaunts its brazen head in undisguised iniquity on all sides, house after house vying with each other in leading men and women into deeper sin. How they make downfall easier and more certain! Not contented with the ordinary public-house, they have now invented a new method, that of having an archway in the open street, with only a counter, over which drink is served to the passer-by, so that the public need open no door they pass. All these places are served by young girls. Your hearts would have sickened if you could have looked on those young faces. I say shame on us as a nation. In America the amount of drinking is enormous, But there is all honour to the nation in one respect: their feeling about children and young girls does not exist in England. You never find a native-born American girl serving as a barmaid in the States. On all the land over which wave the stars and stripes you will not find young girls placed in positions of such temptation and danger. I cannot describe the horrors of that scene in Whitechapel, the streets illuminated by the lights of gin palaces. There is the low theatre, which is doing the devil's work six days out of seven. These theatres are now being licensed to sell drink on Sunday; as if six days were not enough! How can I put before you the sin and the misery of that scene? To see the children flocking out of those dens of sin! I state no exaggeration, no overdrawn picture. You have only to read the police reports. Last year you will find in London alone 500 children under ten years old were taken up dead drunk, and there were 1,500 under fourteen, and 2,000 under twenty-one. Oh! as I walked down the street it seemed as if He, called the Man of Sorrows, was by my side; and I prayed that there, in the midst of that sin, He should be able to say, 'She hath done what she could.'"

THE THREE GREAT BRILLIANTS OF THE WORLD.

The greatest diamond yet discovered, of 240 carats (writes a correspondent), is not, as stated in your transferred paragraph of Saturday, "the finest and largest stone ever found at the Cape." That pre-eminence is the attribute of the rough diamond sent home in 1884, weighing 457 carats, free from fault or tinge. It was cut into a brilliant, named the "Imperial," of 180 carats, besides a fragment producing a brilliant of 19 carats, sold to the King of Portugal for £8,000 or £9,000. The three great brilliants of the world are the Imperial, the Regent, and the Koh-i-noor, weighing 180, 135, and 105 carats. The Imperial has not been advertised, hence the frequent errors in the press giving precedence to the Regent; but its supremacy will come under public notice at the French Exhibition, where a place has been secured for it in the *place d'honneur*, Main Avenue.

A NAUGHTY LITTLE BOY.

It has been ascertained that the child, about ten years of age, the son of a farm bailiff at Brasted, Kent, has admitted to the police his story—that when on his way home from school he was stopped by an unknown man, stripped naked, and left in the cold without any clothing—was fabricated by himself. The boy reached home on Monday last, having on only his shirt and one stocking, and evidently suffering from exposure to the cold. He explained his condition to his parents by saying that a man, a description of whom he gave, had taken off his clothes and boots, and left him with only his shirt and one stocking. The police were informed of the alleged outrage, and it was discovered that the boy had played truant on that day, and had spent his school money.

THE HONOURABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY'S DISPUTE.

The Honourable Artillery Company dispute, writes the London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury*, is in a fair way of settlement. The Duke of Portland will not resume the command of the corps, and the men are willing, as soon as an inquiry into their loyalty has been made, to accept the conditions of service which the War Office desires to impose. All's well that ends well.

THE LATEST THING IN SYNDICATES.

A Coventry correspondent says the determination to form a syndicate with Prescott as centre for the manufacture of watch movements, is followed by a counter-proposal emanating from Coventry—an important centre of the watch trade. Several meetings of the trade have been held, and a company will be formed to manufacture movements for the 4,000 watch workers employed in that city. It is proposed to bring over from Switzerland the plant of a manufacturer who finds the English trade declining under the Merchandise Marks Act.

The Marquis of Hartington, who has been in town for the last week, left Devonshire House yesterday afternoon for Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire, where he will remain for some days.

Mr. Herbert Gladstone, who has been staying at Cleveland-row, St. James's, for the last few days, left yesterday for Naples, to join Mr. Gladstone at the Villa Roccabella.

Professor Elgar, Director of Dockyards, paid a visit to Portsmouth yesterday, and inspected the various vessels in course of construction, as well as several of the large men-of-war, which will require considerable repairs before being commissioned for mobilization manœuvres.

Mrs. Swanborough, who was for very many years the manageress of the Royal Strand Theatre, died on Sunday, at No. 5, Pelham-crescent, Brompton, in the eighty-fifth year of her age. She will be buried on Friday next, at Brompton Cemetery, at half-past twelve precisely.

Mr. Ritchie, President of the Local Government Board, who has been detained in town in connection with the arrangements for the County Council elections, left yesterday for the south of France, and will be absent during the month.

Grimsthorpe Castle, Bourne, Lincolnshire, the property of Lord Willoughby De Eresby (Lord Aveland), recently inherited from his mother, is to be closed for an indefinite period. His lordship has decided to effect certain economies in connection with the estates.

Musical circles in Paris are very enthusiastic about a little girl of thirteen, named Dautin, whose talent as a violinist promises a female Paganini. Her performance of Max Bruch's Concerto won a perfect ovation for this infant phenomenon at yesterday's concert at the Châtelet.

At a general assembly of the Royal Society of British Artists, held last evening, Mr. G. Tinworth and Mr. Owen Hall, sculptors, Messrs. W. Follen Bishop, Henry Charles Fox, John Fraser, Dudley Hardy, George E. Hicks, W. S. Jay, G. G. Kilburne, jun., and W. H. Pike, painters, were elected members of the Society.

Hoaxes on Folkestone tradesmen still continue. Yesterday there were several fresh victims. At a well-known hotel sweeps arrived at seven A.M., and swept the chimneys, meeting with no opposition from the servants, who imagined the men had been sent in the ordinary way. Later on a corndealer and a hatter arrived with samples. No clue to the perpetrators of these disgraceful hoaxes has been discovered.

Lord Onslow on Friday last retired from the office of Political Secretary to the Board of Trade, in order to prepare for his voyage to New Zealand. His lordship has appointed Mr. Riversdale Walrond his private secretary, to be attached to him while Governor and Commander-in-Chief of New Zealand. His lordship will leave London on February 22, in the steam ship *Victoria*, for Wellington.

LIGHT AND COLOUR IN NATURE.—At a meeting of the Victoria Institute last evening, a paper on "Colours in Nature," by Dr. Walker, F.L.S., was read, in which he described the influence of light and colour, and the varieties of colour prevalent in the various branches of the animal and vegetable kingdoms, and the manner in which various colours were a means to an end. He also referred to the use of colours in the worship and customs of different ancient nations.

THE PRINCE AND THE VAUXHALL PARK.—Yesterday the Prince of Wales, on the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, met a dozen representatives of the working men's committee of the Vauxhall Park Fund, in the great library of Lambeth Palace. One of them read a memorial, in which his Royal Highness was requested to lend his assistance to them in their effort to acquire the Lawn and Carron House, to be dedicated as a public park. Of the sum required, £45,000, all had been provided for except between four and five thousand pounds, and unless the purchase was completed before the close of the present month the opportunity would be lost for ever. The Prince expressed his cordial sympathy with the object in view, and his confident belief in its attainment, and, in promising to open the new park when it was ready, said he hoped he would be accompanied on that occasion by the Princess.

Bord's Pianos. 25 per cent. discount for cash, or 15s. per month (Second-hand, 10s. 6d. per month) on the three years' system. Illustrated Lists free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 42, SOUTHAMPTON-ROW, HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PUNS.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—In the amusing article on "Puns" in Saturday's *Pall Mall Gazette* it is declared that no such thing as yet exists in our language as a pun in serious literature or poetry. It is curious that this statement should be made while "Macbeth" is a topic of general interest. In the lines—

If he do bleed,
I'll *gild* the faces of the grooms withal,
For it must seem their *guilt*—

we have an obvious and intentional pun, occurring at perhaps the most solemn moment of one of the greatest tragedies in our language.—Yours faithfully,

St. Osyth, Hurlingham, S.W., Jan. 7. ALFRED BERLYN.

MR. GOSCHEN AND THE INCOME TAX.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—Mr. Goschen's answer to Mr. Stone is ingenious, not to say disingenuous. It states that the figures of the income tax receipts for the three first quarters of the past financial year "conclusively prove" the baselessness of the fiction referred to. We fail to see this conclusive proof, inasmuch as the result of any pressure brought to bear on persons assessed under Schedules A, B, D, and E, the only persons who could be affected by their assessments being increased, cannot possibly appear in the first three quarters, but only in the last quarter of the financial year, that from the 6th January to the 5th April. The figures given by Mr. Goschen therefore prove nothing at all. Mr. Goschen says the "Government" have given no instructions to the surveyors of taxes, but can he say that the Inland Revenue has not? We are convinced that they have, for we have never received so many complaints of assessments having been unjustifiably increased. Surveyors are, of course, ever ready to increase such assessments, for the 162nd Section of the Act provides that, when they successfully do so, they are to get "an adequate reward for their diligence." This is the true cause of the very many vexatious charges made upon the unfortunate taxpayer, who they trust will pay rather than appeal.—We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

25, Colville-terrace, W. THE INCOME TAX REPAYMENT AGENCY.

LOPPING, CHOPPING, AND CLEARING IN EPPING FOREST

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—The letter of Mr. Percy Lindley, which you quote in your issue of the 3rd inst., states nothing but the truth; indeed it understates it, inasmuch as he refers only to the destruction of the æsthetic advantages of the forest, by reducing it to the level of Hyde Park. This is bad enough, and, I may add, distinctly illegal, as the Act of Parliament directs that the forest shall be kept in its natural condition, and not converted into a park or open space. But I would draw attention to the loss which the students of nature must sustain by the wilful destruction of the undergrowth. It is here that wild flowers flourish, wild birds construct their nests, and insects are protected and propagate. The authors of this vandalism are a committee of verderers elected by the ratepayers in the forest, joined with certain elected members of the Court of Common Council of London. They are mostly tradesmen, respectable in their way, but utterly unfitted by their antecedents to appreciate or to preserve the beauties of woodland scenery. If this barbarism be not checked, and that speedily, the entire sylvan beauty of the forest will have disappeared; for the committee have the purse of the Corporation to draw upon, and the forest will have been disafforested in a year or two, if the pace of clearing which now prevails be kept up. Pray, Sir, lift up your potent voice on behalf of your afflicted friend, OUTRAGED NATURE.

January 5.

MEN AND MEASURES FOR THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—In your leading article of yesterday evening you point out that whereas the London County Council candidates are obliged to express their views about the taxation of ground rents, the Council will have no power in the matter. As one of the candidates included in your "miscellaneous" category may I be allowed to point out why the question of taxing ground rents is so prominent? Your remarks on the first duties of the new Council are admirable, but you have omitted one item which is the principal subject of interest to the metropolitan voters. The burning question is: how to decrease the rates. The Council will be in a great financial difficulty. Even when the rates are equalized throughout London, the average rate will be 5*s.* 3*d.* The wheel tax died during the Holborn election. This must be replaced by another tax. For indoor paupers there will be a further charge of not less than £350,000 a year. The coal and wine duties, amounting in 1887 to £320,973 14*s.* 1*d.*, seem to be doomed. Mr. J. Firth, M.P., tells us that he does not see how the new London rate can be less than 4½*d.* more than the rate of the moribund Board of Works—that is, one shilling and three farthings. The ratepayer must be relieved is the popular cry. In the ground landlords we find the goose with the golden eggs—I mean nothing personal—and there is a general inclination to sniff after the City companies' funds. The new Council is certainly administrative, and not legislative; but London ratepayers can easily squeeze a Conservative Government, and it seems natural that the Council candidates are showing them how to commence the operation.

It would be very valuable if the *Pall Mall Gazette* would publish the views of those best qualified to give an opinion on this financial difficulty.—Faithfully yours, COMPTON.

Castle Ashby, Northampton, Jan. 6.

A LONDON MERCHANT TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

THE January number of *Longman's Magazine* contains an article entitled "A Queen Anne Pocket-Book," in which the writer, Mrs. Pollard, cites many interesting items from an eighteenth-century account book picked up in the cellar of a Lombard-street bank some forty years ago. The entries which it contains relate mainly to money transactions, but by careful piecing together they can be made to indicate a good deal of the story of the owner, John Payne, as well as yield a few strokes towards a picture of the times and society in which he lived. The social life of the fashionable classes of his age scintillates already in the comedies of Etheredge, Congreve, and Vanbrugh; and, a few decades later, the manners of the same class were painted with consummate skill in the pages of the *Tatler* and *Spectator*. John Payne was not a fine gentleman. He was an honest, steady-going City merchant, who served his seven years' apprenticeship, took a share in the shop, and ultimately retired to live on an estate inherited from his father in Huntingdonshire. He belonged to the great mass of the English people—slow to improve or to deteriorate—that backbone of English social life which the asceticism of Puritanism failed permanently to sour, and which not even the immorality of Charles the Second's Court could entirely corrupt. His class met with no sympathy from Restoration poets or playwrights. On the stage the City merchant was held up to public scorn and ridicule: in the mimic life of the drama—as in real life—his wife and daughters were held to be the legitimate prey of the West-end gallant. John Payne was of this merchant class; and his life is interesting in spite of its uneventfulness.

He came up to London from Huntingdonshire in the year 1696, and was apprenticed to a linendraper or silk mercer. He was apparently well connected, and his father possessed an extensive estate, to which in due time the son succeeded. Mrs. Pollard expresses surprise that a young man in so good a position should have become a London apprentice; but it was not at all unusual or remarkable. It was fortunate for young John Payne that he did take up his residence east of Temple Bar. Had he been entered at one of the Inns of Court, his pocket-book might have disclosed a very different state of affairs. As it was, he does not seem to have visited the theatre; nor does he ever mention a coffee-house. Consequently he was not tempted to turn wit or author; and there was no fear of his running away from the counter like that other silk mercer's apprentice, Gay, to tread the thorny path of literature. And for the same reason a modest five pounds was found to be sufficient to "rig out" John on his first coming to town. This sum was spent in the following manner:—

Layed out between ye 10th of January & ye 20th of February 169¾.

	£	s.	d.
A paire of Gloves	00	01	02
A box & hatband	00	02	06
A pennknife	00	00	08
A Queer of paper	00	00	06
A Coppy Booke	00	00	08
A Porter & letter	00	00	06
The Barber	00	00	03
Sugar Candy	00	00	02
Damask 4 yds	00	14	06
2 yds ¾ of Bd Cloth	01	13	00
5 yds of Shaloone	00	11	00
Buttons & fustin	00	10	11
Buckrum & Canvis	00	01	03
Glazd Lin:	00	00	05
The Taylors Bill	01	06	00
	05	03	06

John came to town with £4 18*s.* he had saved; and during his seven years' apprenticeship he spent on his own account £19 5*s.* 9*d.* This money came from his friends—probably given to him on the occasions of his visiting home—and he kept a careful account of the moneys so lent or given. During his apprenticeship he spent on his father's account £64 19*s.* 11*d.* One wonders how often he paid £1 for "coach hire" returning home. That he did not forget his people is clear. His pocket-book contains many references to "linsayes, dyapers, and Westfalia linen," which he sent home to his mother, sisters, and friends.

The apprenticeship came to an end in 1703. But John Payne seems to have remained in the same business, probably taking a share, for his weekly income from the shop amounted to £5. He had rent coming in, and he was of economical habits, so that his income must have been a very fair one. Naturally he thought of taking unto himself a wife. He had prudently waited until he was in a position to marry. He now wooed and won "Mrs." Lydia Durrant, to whom, in 1706, he writes as follows:—

I gladly embrace ys first opportunity to tell you dearest Mdm yt I arrived Safe in towne ys evening with a great deal of ease both to my horse & self; The Roads I found much better than by way of Tunbridge & Weather Thanks be to God pretty favourable, My greatest trouble was to think ye nearer I was to my journeys End, yt I was still ye farther from yr Dear Self. Do me so much Justice Mdm as to believe yt it is impossible for me to have any interest or concern nearer my heart then you & I am sorry so great a truth and pure cannot be expressed in other Words then such as sometimes are forced to serve ye profane use of Complements. I wish it were any way in my power & I hope it will 'ere long, to shew ye true affection I have for you & I value myself upon ye opportunity I promise myself of shortly kissing yr hand. I have not mett with father as yett but trust I shall tomorrow morning. Yr letters to Hackney shall be delivered with care and speed. I beg Mrs Woodgate's acceptance of ye oranges designed her ys week by Caryer, I shall rejoice to hear ye little one is come safe to towne & Aunt in a way of recovery but above all to hear of yr good health wch will be an infinite joy. If you did believe or could Imagine how great a refreshment a letter from you would afford me at this melancholy distance you would not faile to write by the first post, & ye hopes I conceive you will do so support me under ye misfortune of yr absence. It is late so adding my humble service to Unkle's & Mr. Paris's family with a thousand thanks shall extend this no farther than ye subscribing myself with a most sincere and hearty affection

Mdm yr most humble admirer

March 12th 170¾ Fetter Lane. JOHN PAYNE.

In September of the same year (1706) he entered into "ye holy state of matrimony."

The pair seem to have furnished their house by degrees. At the end of September the young husband buys a mantelpiece glass for £2 10*s.* He buys chairs—how many?—for which he pays £4 8*s.* Two kilderkins of beer cost him 10*s.*; he obtained some glasses for 12*s.* 6*d.*; a table for 8*s.*; a chest of drawers and a table for £3 16*s.* Next month he lays out a few pounds more on account of furniture. He pays the "upholster," and buys "plate and spoons" to the value of £12 5*s.* 6*d.*

A year or more passes. Then we find it recorded that the wife received £5 for her "occassion." Immediately thereafter follow references to "Parson and Clerk, 13*s.* 3*d.*," and "Cradle and Baskitt 11*s.* 6*d.*" The Diary contains the following elucidatory entry:—

My Dear first child was born ye 22rd of June, 1707, about 10 in ye forenoon.
Christened by ye name of Eliz. ye 25 of ye same month, & dyed ye 19th of July following about 11 at night, & lyes in ye vault in St. Voster's, Londn.

The regular accounts end in 1709. Other children filled the place of the firstborn that died. John Payne inherited his father's estate in Huntingdon, and went to live on it. The last entry in the book bears the date 1726. The rest of the owner's history must for ever remain unwritten.

CHIT-CHAT FROM THE CONTINENT.

Dr. Kögel, the Court chaplain at Berlin, quoted, in a recent sermon, the following little poem, and pointed out that it was the production of a member of the German Imperial family, having been composed during the sorrowful year which has just ended. Dr. Kögel said that hitherto the poem had never gone beyond the walls of the Imperial Palace. Here is the English version of it:—

"Mother dear, the Crown Imperial is so fair and sweet,
Tell me why so many tear-drops in its cup are hid."
"Have you not looked round the garden where the flowers grow,
Glittering dew-drops are enclosed in all the buds that blow?"
"Yes, I saw them, but they vanished in the sun's warm ray,
But within the Crown Imperial they remain all day."
"All the other flowers open when the night is fled,
But no ray may kiss those tears which secretly are shed."
"Secretly, dear mother?" "Daughter, take the flower away."
"I will take it home and bear it gently all the way.
And I mind the lesson as it in this flower appears:
Crowns do not protect against them, but they hide the tears."

***

Dr. Kögel did not actually mention the name of the Grand Duchess of Baden, the only daughter of the Dowager Empress Augusta, but it was plainly indicated that she was the composer. This is very pretty and touching, and the little poem was no doubt very appropriate to the time, but unless I am very much mistaken I have heard it years ago, and the last two lines especially have a very familiar sound. Where is the literary editor of the *Kölnische* who allows the verses to be printed as a new composition from the pen of a sympathetic daughter, dedicated to her bereaved and desolate mother?

***

The young Empress of Germany is not a woman about whom the world finds much to say, but a clergyman in Germany told me the other day that she was a truly religious woman and that she was her husband's wisest counsellor. He has now given the order to the Düsseldorf portrait painter, K. Kiesel, to paint a picture of her Majesty in full evening dress, as an ornament for the Emperor's study.

***

I am glad to hear from Sweden that Mdme. Sophie Kovaleffska, who holds a professorship at the Stockholm High School, has gained the Bordin Prize of 3,000 f. at Paris for her paper on mathematical physics. The paper was sent anonymously to Paris, and the "Immortals" were so charmed with it that, before they knew the name of the writer, they resolved of their own accord to raise the prize to 5,000 f. This is all the more remarkable as the prize has only been fully paid on two occasions since it was first offered in 1835. Mdme. Kovaleffska has gone to Paris to receive her award from a number of savants, among whom were MM. Pasteur, Jules Simon, and De Lesseps.

***

The talented lady is the widow of a Russian savant and daughter of the chief of the Russian artillery, General Corvin Korkoffski; her grandfather was the well-known General Schubert, the friend of Bernadotte; one of her lady ancestors was the daughter of the Hungarian King Matthias Corvinus, and another was a famous gipsy beauty.

***

It seems that his Holiness is very well satisfied with the designs for a colossal statue of himself, and he has ordered a copy of the original, which is to be placed in the Vatican museum, and several reduced copies, one of which is to be erected in Leo XIII.'s native town, Carpineto.

***

The frequent visits which Grand Duke Serge paid to the Pasteur Institute during his recent visit to Paris have not been for nothing, for it is now announced that the Emperor of Russia has consented to the erection of an institution in Russia, which is to combine the chief feature of the Pasteur Institute and the Berlin institute for public sanitation.

***

Professor Botken, the physician of the Empress of Russia, is not at all satisfied with her Majesty's state of health, and has advised a consultation with Dr. Leidesdorf, of Vienna, who also treated the Duchess of Cumberland.

***

Two grandsons of the famous Algerian chief, Emir Abd-el-Kader, aged respectively twelve and sixteen years, have just arrived at Paris to follow the paths of wisdom and understanding, and to acquire the beauties of European civilization at the Louis le Grand educational establishment.

***

This year's carnival is to be very gorgeously celebrated on the Continent, and Nice is, of course, among the first and foremost to do honour to the Prince of Fools. A very grand international *concours de mascarades* is to be one of the chief features of the festivities, and for the sake of the rich and beautiful costumes which are to be worn, I am glad to hear that the throwing of confetti will be prohibited, and that, if battle there be, it must be exclusively a battle of flowers.

***

The Emperor of Brazil is a grateful man, who in his days of prosperity doth not forget the comforters of times of adversity. He has been ill, and the French have visited him when he was sojourning in their country, and now that he is once again restored to health he is sending from his Empire of the South the order of the Rose of Brazil to quite a number of French medical men and others who grew in grace while they dwelled under the monarch's eye.

THE PRODUCTION OF COCA.

SOME interesting information is given in the *Bulletin* for January, issued from Kew Gardens, with respect to the coca plant, which has received considerable attention of late owing in a great measure to the valuable properties which have been ascribed to one of its alkaloids called cocaine as a local anæsthetic. Coca wine and various other preparations of coca leaves are now also largely in use. The plant itself has been noticed and described by botanists and travellers for more than three hundred years. The coca is cultivated to a very large extent in the Andes of the Argentine Republic, of Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and the United States of Columbia (New Granada). It is also cultivated in the mountainous parts of Brazil, and there are specimens in the Kew Herbarium from the head-waters of the Rio Negro collected by Spruce in 1854. The largest plantations, called locally *Cocals*, are said to be in the province of La Paz in Bolivia. Weddell estimates in a good harvest the produce of coca leaves per acre at about 900 pounds. The total production of coca is something like 40,000,000 pounds, worth at 1*s.* per pound a value of £2,000,000. Almost the whole of the produce is consumed in South America. Since the discovery of the anæsthetic properties of cocaine the demand for coca leaves in South America has considerably increased for export purposes. A distinct loss in the alkaloids generally, as well as in cocaine has been noticed during the transit of leaves to this country, and latterly, in consequence, it has become the practice to extract the alkaloids from the leaves in South America and export to the United States and Europe a crude preparation which is largely taken up by manufacturers of cocaine.

GRANTS IN AID OF METROPOLITAN POOR RATES.

THE following note from the Local Government Board has been received in reply to inquiries regarding the incidence of the grants in aid of poor rates in the metropolis under the Local Government Act, 1888, made more particularly in reference to the parliamentary borough of St. Pancras:—It is impossible at the present moment to form more than a very rough estimate of the amount which the parish of St. Pancras will obtain in respect of the above grant, as the number of indoor paupers for the purposes of the grant is to be reckoned according to the average number of such paupers maintained during the five financial years ended on the 25th of March, 1888, and this number has not yet been ascertained. We have, however, the mean number of indoor paupers maintained by the parish on the 1st of July, 1887, and the 1st of January, 1888, and if the grant of fourpence per day for each indoor pauper were distributed according to this number, St. Pancras would, during the year ended the 31st of March, 1890, and in every subsequent year, receive £24,047, which is equivalent to 3*d.* in the pound on the rateable value of the parish at Lady-day, 1887. If the whole of the parishes and unions of the metropolis were to receive the grant of 4*d.* per head per day for indoor paupers according to the mean number of indoor paupers on the 1st of July, 1887, and on the 1st of January, 1888, the total amount to be received during the year ending the 31st of March, 1890, and in every subsequent year, would be £345,588, which is equivalent to 2*d.* in the pound on the rateable value of the metropolis at Lady-day, 1887. If this sum were distributed to the several unions and parishes in proportion to their ratable value at Lady-day, 1889, the share of St. Pancras would be £17,546, or £6,501 less than the amount which it is estimated St. Pancras will receive according to the above calculation.

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